

# KELTNER'S HOT CORNER



## Ken Keltner Badger State Chapter

### November 2022 In This Issue:

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### Upcoming Events

#### **In-person Chapter Meeting**

Saturday, November 12th @11:30  
Stack'd Burger Bar - 170 S 1st St



#### **Virtual Keltner Book Club**

with Author Thomas W. Gilbert

*How Baseball Happened:*

Thursday, November 17 @7 PM CST

Register [Here](#)



#### **Chapter Holiday Gathering**

Tentative, Saturday December 10  
TBD (Discuss 11/12 Meeting)



#### **SABR 51**

Chicago - July 5-9, 2023  
Palmer House

Direct questions or comments to:  
Dennis D. Degenhardt  
[bovine9@icloud.com](mailto:bovine9@icloud.com)  
262-339-9968

### New Members

Ryan Lewer - Kenosha

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **In-Person Chapter Meeting**

**Saturday November 12 @ 11:30**

[Stack'd Burger Bar](#), 170 S 1st St, Milwaukee

**PLEASE contact [Dennis](#) if interested in attending so we have an idea on attendance for the room layout. PLEASE**

#### **Mike Hauptert - SABR 50 Research Presentation**

##### **Salaries, Skinflints, and Scandals: The Cost of the Black Sox Scandal**



The story of the infamous Chicago Black Sox is well known, but not particularly well understood. Groundbreaking research over the past several years has largely debunked many of the myths surrounding the incident. Despite the vast quantity of documents and research, the financial side of the story still remains murky in its details. Research has shown that Comiskey paid his players at least as well as most owners. But how well did any owners pay their players? Was Comiskey any tighter with a dollar than today's owners? Hauptert focuses on team revenues, salaries, and player performances, and what part they each played in the decision of players to threaten to boycott the 1918 World Series and then conspire to throw one the following year. A look at the degree to which players were exploited, and how that compared across teams, time, and other occupations, sheds light on the decision to accept bribes and the longer run impact on the financial performance of the White Sox, and the treatment of all players in the wake of the scandal.

#### **Phil Sklar - National Bobblehead Museum**

SABR member and co-founder of the [National Bobblehead Museum](#) Phil Sklar will talk about the museum and its history tracing its start to 2002. Join us to learn more. Following Phil, we will tour the National Bobblehead Museum, just upstairs from Stack'd.



The tour will cost \$5 and we will collect it upfront.

#### **SABR 50 Trivia Contest**

More SABR 50 fun take the Individual Preliminary Trivia Contest over lunch. It is an interesting challenge, 40 questions with 20 minutes to complete.

## Recap Virtual Chapter Meeting with Maxwell Kates Time for Expansion Baseball



Click on the picture to watch and enjoy Maxwell Kates SABR 50 research presentation, “Time for Expansion Baseball” and more.

We had 19 members join the chapter meeting discussing how successful each expansion team was, including our own Milwaukee Brewers. Max spoke about how, Major League Baseball nearly doubled in size, from 1961 to 1998, expanding from 16 to 30 teams. He looked at each team’s initial roster from the expansion draft to decide which of 14 team was the most successful? He did so using statistical analyses including the win-loss record for the first decade of each expansion team, the longevity of the expansion players, and how effectively they played based on wins

above replacement. In the end, he ranked the 14 expansion drafts. Where does our hometown Milwaukee Brewers fall in the rankings? What surprises did you find? Do you agree?

In addition, Max is always full of interesting baseball lore and shares that as well.

To watch the meeting recording, click on the picture or [here](#). If you would like a copy of the PowerPoint presentation, contact [Dennis](#).



### Keltner Book Club

#### Virtual Book Club Meeting

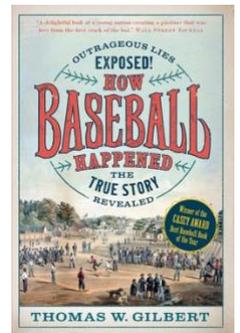
**Special Guest: Thomas Gilbert, author of *How Baseball Happened*  
Thursday, November 17th, 7 PM CST**

“Outrageous Lies Exposed! - The True Story Revealed”



So claims the subtitle of this fascinating book! I never thought I was interested in 19th-century baseball until I read this compelling history of the game’s evolution. We hope you can join us for an excellent presentation and discussion of *How Baseball Happened* with the author. **Also, all attendees will be entered into a drawing win a copy of the book.**

According to baseball historian and SABR member John Thorn, “How Baseball Happened is a brilliant new approach to our game and its author tells a hundred stories you haven’t heard before.”



Special thanks to Wally Thiel for suggesting *How Baseball Happened*.

You can check out more info and lots of other good stuff about the book [here](#):

If you’d like to buy the book locally, in person or shipped, it’s available at [Boswell Books](#).

As always, you don’t need to read the book to attend. All are welcome, you just need to register in advance through SABR [Here](#). SABR will forward the Zoom log-in information.

Hope you can join us – Happy reading, Mary

### 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 related sites.

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

### Get to Know...Maxwell Kates

Maxwell Kates' grandfather had a grocery store and found it was cheaper to change the sign than to change the windows.

The grandfather and the store's name were both Katz during World War II. The grocery store was in the west end of Toronto, where anti-Semitism was not unheard of. So, to prevent people from repeatedly smashing the windows, he changed his name from the ethnic sounding Katz to the more Anglo-Saxon Kates. Max finds it ironic that with the 'es' suffix, "I'm mistaken for Portuguese far more often than Anglo-Saxon."

Maxwell Ian Kates was born on April 21, 1978, in the capital of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario to David Harold (born Katz) Kates and his mother Barbara Ann (nee Wagman) Kates. He has a younger brother, Benjamin, born nearly three years later in 1981. Max's mom was trained as a teacher and worked as a psychologist with disabled kids while his father was trained as a lawyer and worked as a labour<sup>1</sup> arbitrator.



Attending public schools growing up in Ottawa Kates attended First Avenue Public School, 1982 to 1986; McNabb Park Public School, 1986 to 1988; Mutchmor Public School, 1988 to 1990; Glashan Intermediate School, 1990 to 1992; and Lisgar Collegiate Institute (college prep high school), 1992 to 1997.

Hearing the name 'Fernando' repeatedly on the 6:00 news was his earliest baseball memory. When asked who Fernando was, Max replied, "It was years later that I realized that they were speaking about the Dodgers' lefthander on the news." Kates played minimum baseball only at camp, but took taekwondo while in high school, becoming a first level black belt.

Max's favourite team as a kid was the Montreal Expos because, "Geographically, the Expos were the closest team to Ottawa, and the team we were exposed to (pun unintended) the most. Expos tickets were a lot cheaper and easier to get than Blue Jays tickets. We used to go to the Expos winter caravan, which was advertised in the newspaper. The Blue Jays winter caravan also came to Ottawa, but I never went to one. Each year, I learned about it only after it had happened."

The first World Series game Kates recalls was Kirk Gibson homering off Dennis Eckersley to win Game One of the 1988 World Series. As he recalled that game he asked, "Why wasn't I a Dodgers fan?" And then Max answered the query, "Well, Los Angeles is on the west coast and so we didn't even get to read about the box scores, let alone watch their games. We used to go to spring training in Ft. Lauderdale and West Palm Beach, so the teams that I probably followed the most were the Expos, the Yankees, and the Atlanta Braves." Max then included, "My brother liked the Braves, and I liked the Yankees."

[Gary Carter](#) and [Roberto Clemente](#) were his favourite players. Carter, as one of the greatest Expos is easily understood but why Clemente? "Clemente was somebody I always admired as a human being as well as a ballplayer," adding "I always wore number 21, and part of the reason was because of Roberto Clemente."

Kates lived in Ottawa until he was 19 when he left for university in Toronto. He has not returned to reside there because as he explained, "Unless you were fully bilingual in English and French, the opportunities were far greater in Canada's largest city." He attended four different schools, University of Toronto, 1997 to 2001, where he studied history; then George Brown College, 2002 to 2007, for accounting; Ryerson University in 2007 where he picked up some courses before he started working, and continuing correspondence courses at Athabasca University, located in Alberta, in 2008. With his accounting background, Kates became a Chartered Accountant which is like a CPA in the states.

In 2001 near the end of his senior year in university, he joined SABR. As Maxwell tells the story, "There were

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<sup>1</sup> Since Kates is Canadian, the editor opted to use the spelling and terminology used by our neighbors to the north.

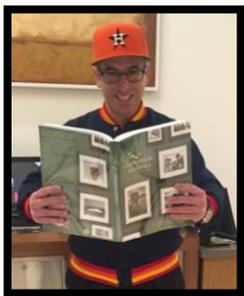
two converging factors. I had taken a course on African American History with Michael Wayne, and my term paper was about Curt Flood. My father told me that I should join SABR after he read it. I had heard about SABR, first from Dixie Tourangeau's 'Play Ball' calendars, but I thought it was only for professors and academics. At the same time, David McDonald had written an article in the *Ottawa Citizen* about the previous year's SABR convention in West Palm Beach, Florida; research presentations, a Marlins game...Ted Williams was there? Maybe I should go. So, I joined SABR, and my graduation present was a trip to the convention, which was in Milwaukee. That's where I first met people like Bob Buege, Dennis Degenhardt, Rick Schabowski, and the late Bob Koehler"

Since that first convention, he has attended a dozen more, usually missing if there is a conflict with his work schedule. He is a member of the Toronto chapter and was on the steering committee for about twelve years overseeing the process of naming it the Hanlan's Point Chapter. He has been more active with the Houston chapter the last few years attending their meetings regularly via Zoom. And he's enjoyed opportunities to attend regional meetings in Montreal, Vancouver, Houston, and Washington. Kates has also attended two Canadian Baseball History Conferences, 2018 and 2019 in London, (Ont), and he will have a research presentation about the Expos this November (12-13) in [Windsor](#). The genesis for the talk is a paper he wrote on Charles Bronfman for a book about Canadians in baseball called "[Our Game, Too](#)," "It's going to take a slightly different stance, specifically, why the Montreal Expos never won a National League pennant when Bronfman owned the team."

With his history background, baseball research is second nature to Kates. In his early days with SABR, he spoke at the Limmud Conference, a pluralistic festival of Jewish learning, about "Of Horsehides and Hexagrams: Baseball as a Vehicle for American Jewish Culture." That also became the subject matter for one his National Pastime essays. He was an early writer for the Bio Project participating in Bio Books on the 1968 Detroit Tigers, the 1959 Chicago White Sox, and the 1969 New York Mets. In all, he penned 15 SABR Bios including a not so favorite Brewer's manager, [Buck Rodgers](#), 1982 Brewer infielder [Roy Howell](#), and a broadcaster near and dear to Milwaukee fans, [Merle Harmon](#). Max was fortunate to get to know Merle. "He and I worked together on a project on baseball broadcasting, and for the last five years of his life, he was almost like a third grandfather. I still have his picture in my room alongside friends and family members." Kates also authored four articles published in SABR's *National Pastime* and has written a Games Project article. You can read any or all of Maxwell's SABR articles available on his SABR [Author's Page](#).

In addition to writing for SABR, he has given research presentations at three SABR national conventions; Seattle, Houston, and Baltimore. He also spoke at a regional chapter meeting in Montreal about Expos postcards, in French. "Jacques Doucet, who broadcast Expos games for years, was in the audience. Even before he became a journalist, he was a translator. He told me afterwards where I made mistakes with my idioms, grammar, and sentence structure. Maybe I should have got that bilingual certificate after all."

The Houston presentation "The Bikers Beat the Boy Scouts" about changing attitudes towards facial hair in baseball in the 1970s, turned into, Kates claims, "the source of my two greatest accomplishments in SABR."



Not only was the presentation turned into an article for the SABR Bio book about the Oakland A's, but Jim Kreuz of Houston invited him to speak to the Larry Dierker chapter. That became the first twist leading to a monthly column with the *Pecan Park Eagle*, a Houston-based baseball history periodical. Then Bill Nowlin noticed his work and asked him to co-edit "[Time for Expansion Baseball](#)." As Kates related, "You know, it's true what they say if you're Canadian, once Americans know who you are, Canadians might start to pay attention." After Houston, he started getting speaking invitations closer to home. He added, "The most notable of these was at my alma mater, the University of Toronto, where I spoke about the formation of the Toronto Blue Jays for one of their alumni events."

As SABRen have learned, there are many special baseball interests that our members have. Kates has what he calls a work in progress. "As a kid and a teenager, I was really interested in baseball yearbooks. I bought a full set of yearbooks every year, and I probably ended up with 90% of them from 1963 to 2016 in my collection." He has a rare 1970 Brewers yearbook as well as one from 1982. "Without my yearbook collection, there never would have been "Time for Expansion Baseball."

What would Maxwell do if given a time machine opportunity; what baseball moment, event or place would he visit? That was easy, his response was, "To experience New York City baseball in the 1950s, firsthand."

What would Max want us to now about him that we don't know. His reply wasn't baseball related, "One time, I made Steve Martin laugh. True Story!"

As one of Kates followers on Facebook living vicariously through his travels, I asked if there were any final words of wisdom he would like to share specifically about his trips. His answer doesn't disappoint. "I've attended games in 23 of the 30 current ballparks, but I've done a lot of travel outside of baseball, too. That includes Australia, New Zealand, Israel, Mexico, and 15 countries in Europe. My favourite trip was in 2014. I started in Vienna, bought a Eurail pass, and continued west through Germany, Switzerland, and France before flying home from Paris. My last week of that trip was a bicycle trip in Provence, one of four regions of France I have toured by bicycle. An added bonus in France is the ability to speak the language. International travel was difficult during the depths of Covid, so in 2021, I saw a lot of Canada, especially Vancouver. Next year I'm going to England, having cancelled a trip that coincided with their 'Ten Plagues' this summer, and to Chicago for the SABR convention at the Palmer House." [Max and I walked to the United Nations building to watch the Fourth of July fireworks in New York, following the SABR convention in 2017. It was special sharing that event with my Canadian friend by the UN.]

Since we started with his grandfather he would like to finish there as well with Maxwell adding more. "After the grocery store, he became the manager of a department store for 24 years. Each year, they would send him to a toy convention at the Palmer House in Chicago. Now my grandfather passed away in 1987 when I was 9, so my brother and I only got to know him as little kids. When I walk through the revolving door at the front of the hotel, it's as though I'm telling him, 'You never saw me as adult, but I became a chartered accountant, and now I'm staying at the Palmer House. Looks like I did all right.'"



## Wisconsin Players Major League Debut - 2022 By Dennis D Degenhardt

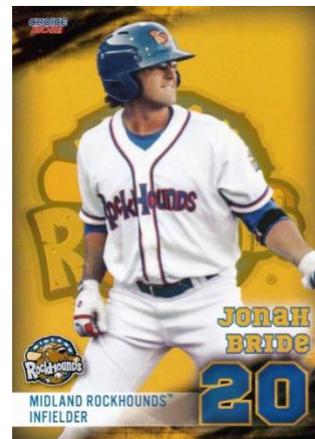
Two Wisconsin born ballplayers made their debut in 2022, Jonah Bride with Oakland and Terrin Vavra in Baltimore. This month we will feature Bride who debuted first and follow with Vavra in November.

### JONAH BRIDE

[Jonah Michael Bride](#) was born in Milwaukee on December 27, 1995, to Sharon and Patrick Bride; making his major league debut on June 14, 2022 at age 26. He was 22,704th major leaguer and 253rd born in Wisconsin.

He moved to Oklahoma at age eight or nine and was a Brewers fan, Prince Fielder was his favorite player.<sup>2</sup> As Jonah told Jeremy Mahy, he credits his parents as his biggest baseball influence. "We've always been in it together. People always talk about how when I was 10, 11, 12-years-old my mom was still catching bullpens for me. My parents definitely pushed me every single day, kept me going. It is motivation for me to keep doing that."<sup>3</sup>

Attending [Owasso High School](#)<sup>4</sup> in Owasso, OK, 14 miles from Tulsa, Bride was the starting second baseman in his junior year, 2013. The number two ranked Rams by *USA Today*<sup>5</sup> finished with their only perfect season, 36-0 after playing in their 15-of-17 Class 6A (large schools) finals, capturing their ninth trophy during that span and 12th state championship<sup>6</sup>. Bride was selected to the All-Metro team after hitting .344 with 27 RBIs<sup>7</sup>. He moved to shortstop as a Senior and Owasso extending their winning streak to 38 games starting their 2014 campaign with two victories, including a no-hitter in the season opener, before losing to Tulsa's Bishop Kelley.



<sup>2</sup> Interview with Jerry Mahy, "Prospect Spotlight: An Interview with Jonah Bride", *prospects 1500.com*, June 22, 2022

<sup>3</sup> IBID.

<sup>4</sup> In addition to Bride, other major leaguers from Owasso High School include, [Jamie Bluma](#), [Dylan Bundy](#), [Brian Flynn](#), and [Pete Komza](#).

<sup>5</sup> "USA Today Sports Super 25," *USA Today*, May 9, 2013, C.9., they were #1 in Oklahoma.

<sup>6</sup> Through 2022, [Owasso](#) added championships in 2015 and 2022 totaling 14 since 1973 and most in state history. Next closes have seven titles (source Wikipedia).

<sup>7</sup> USA Today Sports Super 25, *USA TODAY*, Feb 27 2014: C.9.

Bishop Kelley played spoiler a second time, defeating Owasso twice eliminating them in the state regionals. Bride was named to Louisville Slugger's Second Team All-American Shortstop.

Following graduation, Jonah enrolled at [Neosho County Community College](#) in Chanute, Kansas for his freshman year. In Bride's only season with the Panthers, he was hitless in only 5-of-58 games played while leading the Panthers in every major batting category.<sup>8</sup> The infielder set the school's season hits record with 96, while batting .471, slugging 14 homers, and driving in 93, (junior colleges third best). He even pitched three games; 2 1/3 innings scoreless relief, fanning four. After the season, he was named Second Team NJCAA All-American and First Team All-Jayhawk Conference.<sup>9</sup> He is the schools fourth major leaguer.

He wasn't done with baseball for the 2015 season, spending his summer playing in the Northwoods League. Returning to the Badger State, Bride, on loan with Wisconsin Rapids, played 24 games with the Rafters, manning second and third bases. He hit .172 with ten hits, all singles in 58 at bats. Wrapping up the season in Iowa, Jonah played all but four of his 28 games at first. The 19-year-old also tossed one inning of scoreless relief. He improved at the plate with 23 base knocks, eight for extra bases, batting .234 in 97 ABs for the Bucks.

Bride was one of three junior college players recruited by the University of South Carolina after they failed to make the NCAA tournament in 2015, the first time since 1999. During his three years at USC, Jonah anchored the hot corner, starting every game but one. The Gamecocks won the SEC's East title and returned to the NCAA tourney making it to the Super Regionals final before elimination by Oklahoma State; one game shy of advancing to the College World Series. Jonah's only game not starting at the coffin corner was during that Super Regionals when he was ejected after running into Rhode Island's catcher, earning an automatic one game suspension. Batting in the middle of the order, he slashed .283/.393/.363, with a .755 OPS<sup>10</sup> and finishing tied for second in stolen bases (8); and fourth in hits (61) and doubles (12). On defense, he committed only three errors for a .975 fielding percentage (Fld%).

After making the Super Regionals, hopes were high in Columbia, SC for the 2017 season and the Gamecocks had another winning season (32-25) but they didn't win a conference title. They did make it to the SEC Conference semi-finals for the first time since 2007 but were not invited to the NCAA field of 64 costing head coach, Chad Holbrook his job after five years at the helm. The Junior had another consistent season, starting all 60 games. He again smacked 12 doubles with 260 plate appearances, both team highs. His 32 hits were second on the team and Jonah again drove in 32 runs (third) with more power, five homers, while slashing .282/.371/.426 with a .796 OPS. In April, trailing Davidson 2-0, Jonah's seventh inning double broke up no-hitter while his second two-base hit in the eighth drove in the winning run, 3-2 final.<sup>11</sup> He also hit a home run during the conference playoffs. Although eligible for the major league draft as a junior, he wasn't selected.

New season, new head coach, Mark Kingston, who took two previous teams to the NCAA tournament in his first season. He did the same with USC in 2018. Jonah had a big game in the Greenville Regional championship batting 2-for-5, slugging a two-run dinger with three RBIs in an 8-4 win over UNC Wilmington to advance to the Super Regionals for the second time in three years.<sup>12</sup> The right-handed batter was again the model of consistency in his final collegiate season, again swatting 12 doubles and played in all 63 games with only five errors at third, .969 Fld%. As a team leader, he finished second in hits (69), walks (34) and On-Base Percentage, (.419) and third in Runs (40) while hitting over .300 for the first time, .301, fifth on the team. A highlight for his senior year was reaching base in 30 consecutive games between Feb. 21-April 12.<sup>13</sup>

Looking at Bride's three seasons at South Carolina, the consistency stands out with his senior year his best. He had two personal best 4-for-5 games against The Citadel in his first two years that included two doubles and a career-high five RBIs in 16-4 win as a sophomore; and a triple, two runs and two more RBIs in 15-1 win the following year.

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<sup>8</sup> Neosho County Community College, <https://goneosho.com/sports/baseball/stats/2015>

<sup>9</sup> South Carolina University Bio

<sup>10</sup> Batting average/on-base percentage/slugging percentage, OPS is on-base plus slugging.

<sup>11</sup> "Bride helps Gamecocks rally past Wildcats, *University Wire*, Apr 18, 2017. [The Daily Gamecock, University of South Carolina]

<sup>12</sup> Greg Hadley, "Gamecocks Claim Regional Crown: USC Advances to NCAA Super Regional for Second Time in 3 Years," *The Greenville News*, June 5, 2018: C2.

<sup>13</sup> South Carolina University Bio

Season	GP	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	HBP	K	SB	CS	SF	SH	AVG	OBP	SLG
2015-16	63	226	41	64	0	12	0	2	32	23	19	39	8	0	2	6	.283	.393	.363
2016-17	60	216	33	61	92	12	2	5	32	22	10	28	3	1	3	9	.282	.371	.426
2017-18	63	229	40	69	95	12	1	4	31	34	14	37	1	1	2	0	.301	.419	.415
Totals:	<b>186</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0.289</b>	<b>0.395</b>	<b>0.401</b>

Unlike the previous year when he was not drafted, Jonah was chosen by the Oakland Athletics; ninth in the 23<sup>rd</sup> round, the 683 pick, in the June 6, 2018 MLB Amateur Draft. He signed a minor league contract on June 18, receiving a \$1,500 signing bonus. He was the 205th Gamecock drafted since 1966 and the 62nd major leaguer from the school.

Getting his professional career underway, Bride reported to the Vermont Lake Monsters in the Class A, Short-Season New York-Penn League where he covered familiar territory as Burlington's third sacker (.904 Fld%). He was one of four Vermont players named to the August All-Star game. The doubles machine led the team with 17, finishing fourth in the league. Jonah also led the Monsters in RBIs (34); second in BA (.287) and Totals Bases (82); and third in Slugging and OPS. He was fourth in five other categories slashing .287/.376/.421 with a .795 OPS. He finished his season playing third for two games in the Arizona Rookie League where he was hitless in five plate appearances.

For the 2019 campaign, Bride was promoted to Stockton in the Advance A, California League manning the hot corner for the preponderance of his playing time, 93 games where he reduced his errors, and improved his Fld% (.969) He also played nine games at first. In Vermont, the young third basemen showed good gap power but lacked over the fence strength and was struggling at the plate with the Ports batting only .207 in late May when the A's Director of Player Development, [Ed Sprague](#) suggested a change in his approach at the plate. Sprague's suggestion was to try to drive the ball instead of shortening up with two strikes. It worked with Jonah's batting average rising to .279 and seven of his ten round-trippers were in the final three months of the season. As he saw it, "I think that was my big turnaround in 2019. I just loosened up and let it go and didn't worry about that."<sup>14</sup> For the season, his 122 hits were second on the team and he was third with 532 Plate Appearances (PA), HRs (10), RBIs (58), Walks (44), OBP (.371), and SLG (.418). Bride slashed, .279/.371/.418 with a .789 OPS. To have a feel for Double A, he spent the last week of the season with the Midland (Texas) RockHounds in the Texas League knocking two hits in nine at-bats.

The year 2020 will be remembered for all kinds of reasons. For most minor league ballplayers, it was a lost season with no games including Bride.

Getting back to baseball in 2021, Bride returned to Midland, where the third sacker found a crowded infield, so he moved to first base, getting much of his playing time there (45 games) with only one error in 396 innings for a .998 Fld%. He also added second base to his repertoire getting into nine games at the keystone and manager Bobby Crosby didn't forget his expertise at third, playing Jonah 16 times, without committing an error.

When A's assistant GM [Billy Owens](#) visited the RockHounds on a road trip in San Antonio, he hit Bride with an idea, how did he feel about going to the Arizona Fall Instructional League (AFL) as a catcher? "It was first like, 'Wow, OK, that's a lot,'" said Bride, "But then, as I kind of thought about it, made a couple of calls to people that I'm close with and are important to me and have always directed me, and it was like, this is whatever it takes." Bride completed his first bullpen in San Antonio and continued side sessions preparing to catch in Arizona in September.<sup>15</sup> When he arrived at Arizona, he worked with the A's minor-league catching coordinator Gabriel Ortiz learning the art of catching taking on all challenges.

While playing three positions and learning a fourth, Jonah's 2021 was his best professional season, to date. During his three years in college, his K/BB<sup>16</sup> ratio was 1.31% (104/79) but he whiffed more often in Stockton in 2019, 2.20% (97/44). In his first full season in Midland, he both walked and fanned 57 times for a 1:1 ratio. He was second in walks, OBP, and OPS (.831) in 78 games slashing .265/.407/.424. Playing for the champion Mesa Solar Sox, in Arizona, he had time at first, second, third and caught four games. When the A's had to remove a catcher from the AFL due an injury, Bride had progressed to the point that they were able to move him to catcher on the Solar Sox's roster. In a league with the best prospect, he fared well, walking more (16)

<sup>14</sup> Melissa Lockard, "A's Prospect Jonah Bride Grabbed a Catcher's Mitt This Fall and Earned His Spot on the 40-Man Roster: 'This Is Whatever It Takes,'" *The Athletic*, February 1, 2022.

<sup>15</sup> IBID.

<sup>16</sup> K/BB is strikeouts to base on balls.

than he fanned (12) finishing third in OBP slashing .250/.451/.462 with a .912 OPS and smacking three taters in 17 games.

The work of becoming a catcher continued in the off season which lasted longer after the owners locked out the players over the CBA. In November, he was rewarded for his hard work when he was added to the 40-man roster. For the first time, instead of going to the YMCA to train alone, Bride worked out with other top prospects and big leaguers including catching bullpens for pitchers like Adrian Houser at Tulsa's Sports Performance. Jonah was invited to his first spring training camp in March 2022 but was optioned back to Midland when the first cuts were announced on March 20.

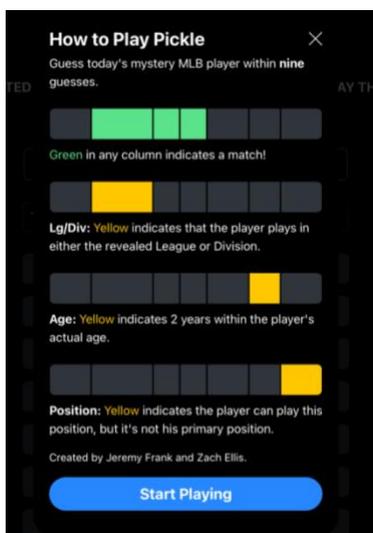
Returning to Midland he played mostly behind the plate with one game at second and two at third before being promoted to AAA, Las Vegas on May 25. During his stint in AA, in 87 PA, he walloped, nine doubles, four homers, and drove in 22, while batting .315/.402/.603 with a 1.005 OPS. Bride's hot hitting continued in the Pacific Coast League, playing on the right side of the infield for the Aviators, batting .392 with a .500 OBP, and a 1.049 OPS including five doubles and one homer when recalled to the big leagues on June 14.



Jonah Bride made his major league debut on June 14, on the road at Fenway Park, batting ninth and playing third base. Facing Red Sox starter, Nick Pivetta, in the bottom of the third inning, he grounded out to his counterpart at third, Rafael Devers. He would ground out twice more finishing 0-for 3 while handling one grounder in the seventh as the A's lost 6-1. He didn't wait long to get his first big league hit, singling to right field, oddly enough to fellow Gamecock Jackie Bradley Jr., the next day in the top of the fifth. He also singled in the eighth. "It's great to get that out of the way, a huge accomplishment for sure," Bride said in a post-game interview with MLB reporter Molly Burkhardt.<sup>17</sup>

Playing all infield position except shortstop, he started the following 10 games, leaving the game on June 26 after colliding with right fielder, Chad Pinder, chasing a pop fly in shallow right field. Jonah was placed on the injured list two days later with a right shoulder strain. After making rehab stints at Stockton and Las Vegas, he was activated from the DL on July 25 returning to action at second base on the 26<sup>th</sup> with one hit in three ABs. Bride slugged his first major league home run on August 26, in the seventh inning off Yankee pitcher Gerrit Cole. In that same contest with all of baseball paying attention to Aaron Judge's bombs, the Yankee slugger also homered driving in three runs with his 49<sup>th</sup>; as Oakland lost 3-2. In his debut season, his versatility played a big role as Bride played 44 games in the field, at three infield positions, making only 4 errors for a .976 Fld%. At the plate, in 58 games he was 33-for-162, slashing .204/.301/.247, a .548 OPS. He had four doubles and one tater.

### MLB Pickle Ball



During the "Bar Time" session during our October chapter meeting, Jack Liebl asked if any of us have played [MLB Pickle Ball](#). He sees it has the baseball alternative to Wordle where you try to guess a player's name daily. You have nine (baseball of course) guesses using the color codes to direct you toward the player. The clues are Team, LG/Div, B, T, Born, Age and Pos. Most of the players are active players which may help.



So far, I haven't guessed one, yet, but Jack usually does daily. This can help with the baseball blues once the World Series is over. Let us know how you are doing. If you have questions, email [Jack](#).

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

<sup>17</sup> "Former Gamecock Jonah Bride Makes MLB Debut, Collects First Hit," *The Daily Gamecock*, June 28, 2022.

## Schabowski's Super Stumpers

By Rick Schabowski  
November Trivia

Rick has some fun and challenging World Series questions this month How did you do? Did any of these bring back good memories?

1. What year was the first World Series, name the teams and the winner.
2. Name the two pitchers who've started a World Series game in three different decades?
3. Who hold the AL record for most at-bats in a season without hitting a triple?
4. Astros Jeremy Pena had an extra base hit in Game 1 of this year's WS he became the first AL rookie to accomplish this event since?
5. What happened in the beginning of game 2 of this year's WS that never happened before?



Do you have a baseball trivia question or two, heck even 12, to stump Our Stumper? If so, send your brilliance to [Rick](#) to see if you can trip him up and he'll include it in a future *Keltner Hot Corner* giving you credit - bragging rights - for your stumper(s).

*Trivia Answers are [here](#)*

### Other Local Baseball Organizations

Milwaukee Braves Historical Association, [Facebook](#)  
Old Time Ball Players of Wisconsin, [Website](#), [Facebook](#)

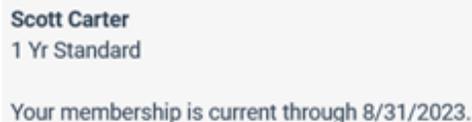


### RENEWING YOUR SABR MEMBERSHIP

While SABR members have different renewal dates throughout the year, a large portion of our membership is up for renewal at the end of the calendar year. So, we'd like to review some simple steps to ensure your membership is current and active!

*Not sure when your membership expires?*

- Visit <https://profile.sabr.org/members/membership.asp> and log in. If you have trouble logging in to your SABR profile, please try resetting your password using [this reset link](#). Then log in to renew using [this link](#).
  - On this page, you'll notice your membership type and your renewal status:



Scott Carter  
1 Yr Standard  
Your membership is current through 8/31/2023.

*How do I renew my membership?*

Most memberships renew automatically for your convenience. However, if yours does not, you need to update payment information, or you are unsure of your renewal status, please follow these steps:

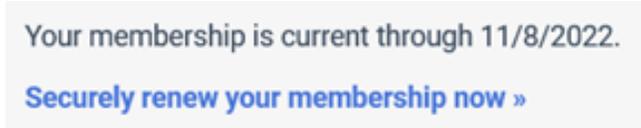
1. Visit <https://profile.sabr.org/members/membership.asp> and log in. If you have trouble logging in to your SABR membership, please try resetting your password using [this reset link](#). Then log in to renew using [this link](#).

2. If you are set up for auto-renewal, as is the case for most members, you will be able to view your open invoice awaiting auto payment. If you need to update your credit card information (for an expired or

closed card number), simply click on the small credit card icon to update your billing information (and skip steps 3-4 below):

Options	Status	Transaction Date	Processed	Type	Membership	Amount	Balance
	Open (Awaiting Auto-Bill)	8/31/2023	N/A	Credit Card	1 Yr Standard	\$65.00	\$65.00

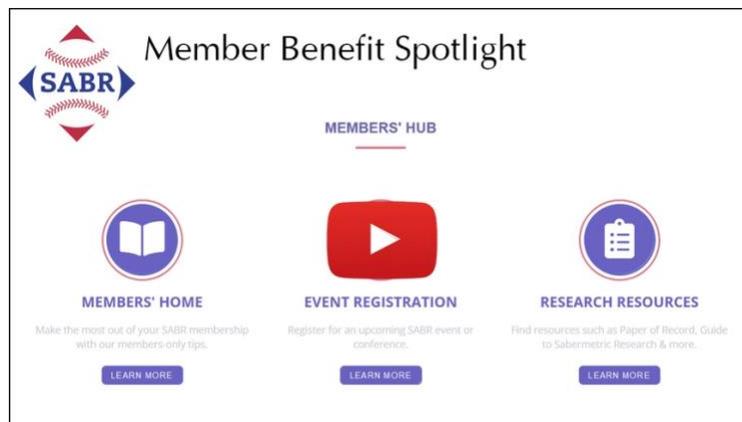
3. **If you are not set up for auto-renewal**, click on the “Securely renew your membership now>>” link about halfway down the page.



4. Update your membership profile with any changes in personal information. Click “Save Changes” button.

5. On the “Membership Dues” page, enter your billing and payment information and click “Submit”.

Here’s a [short video](#) on how to renew your membership and/or update payment information:



**Of course, if you have any questions on the status of your membership or need any assistance in renewing, please don’t hesitate to contact me.**

You can view previous Member Benefit Spotlight videos [on this page](#). Thanks, as always, for your support. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [jsmyth@sabr.org](mailto:jsmyth@sabr.org) or 602-354-9231.

Yours in baseball,

Jessica Smyth, Membership Services Manager, SABR



## Eerie parallels of baseball history in Seattle and Milwaukee

By Feliks Banel - Reporting live from Seattle's past

October 5, 2022

With the Mariners in the playoffs for the first time in 21 years, a subset of diehard fans had hoped the Milwaukee Brewers might also make it to the post-season in 2022. The reasons are complicated, but let’s just say the Seattle-Milwaukee baseball rivalry goes way back, and the cities have a surprising number of things in common when it comes to professional sports.

Admittedly, this story evolved a bit since it first hatched last week – and it ended up with me having a lot more sympathy for baseball fans in Milwaukee than I’ve ever had before.

For a long time, some have harbored a fantasy whereby the Seattle Mariners would face the Milwaukee Brewers in the World Series – more about “why” below. Unfortunately, the Brewers – who have made the playoffs for a team-record four seasons straight – were mathematically eliminated this past Monday night.

Many people already know the first essential fact of this story: the Brewers began life as the 1969 American League expansion team called the Seattle Pilots. The Pilots were terrible, and they played in the decaying Sicks Stadium on Rainier Avenue. The voter-approved Kingdome was to be built for them eventually, but Major League Baseball was in a hurry to add expansion teams so that Kansas City could field the Royals in 1969. Their official theme song was “Go, Go You Pilots!,” penned by local sportscaster (and composer) Rod Belcher.



Seattle Pilots opening day at Sick's Stadium, April 1969

The Pilots went bankrupt after one season, and by the spring of 1970, go they did. Milwaukee businessman – and future baseball commissioner – [Bud Selig](#) snatched them away from Seattle just six days before Opening Day 1970 and renamed them the Brewers. There was so little time to spare, the Brewers had to adopt Seattle colors and wear Seattle uniforms with the ‘Pilots’ patches torn off.

But then, since King County voters had approved the Kingdome as part of a deal to get that baseball franchise in Seattle, Washington Attorney General Slade Gorton sued Major League Baseball and won. And that’s how Seattle got the Mariners, who debuted in 1977 – the same year as their 2022 playoffs opponent, the Toronto Blue Jays.

Now, about that World Series fantasy.

The former-Seattle-Pilots-now-Milwaukee-Brewers were an American League team in 1970, but that changed in 1998 when the Brewers moved to the National League. At that moment, it became hypothetically possible for the Mariners to face the Brewers in the World Series someday. Thus, for the franchise purists (and the radio historians who like to carry an esoteric grudge ... or ten) this would mean a fall classic pitting Seattle against Seattle, the living versus the ghosts, the Mariners versus the Pilots.

I’ve always wondered if anybody else thought about this potential matchup – especially in and around the Brewers’ home turf. So, I tracked down a sportswriter in Milwaukee to test my theory.

[JR Radcliffe](#) writes for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. He told KIRO Newsradio that there are, indeed, a handful of significant modern baseball connections between Wisconsin and Seattle: manager Scott Servais is from LaCrosse; outfielder Jarred Kelenic is from Waukesha, and outfielder Mitch Haniger was, for a time, a minor leaguer for the Brewers.

“But other than that, those are probably the connections,” Radcliffe said. “I really don’t think many people with the Brewers think too much about the Seattle Pilots, I’m afraid.”

But Radcliffe also said there are people who obsess about Milwaukee’s baseball past and, specifically, about the Milwaukee Braves. This was going back to an earlier era and a deeper layer of history, but the Brewers-Pilots debacle all started to make much more sense.

The Braves have played in Atlanta since 1966, and just last year, they beat the Brewers in the playoffs on the way to winning the World Series. But, as some people surely know – me not included – from 1953 to 1965, the Braves were Milwaukee’s team.

Radcliffe says that in Milwaukee – nearly 60 years after they left – the Braves are still almost mythical, and he put me in touch with one of the most dedicated torchbearers of the Braves’ legacy: Bob Buege, president of the [Milwaukee Braves Historical Association](#).

President Buege was there when the Braves arrived in Milwaukee in 1953.

“It’s hard to overstate how the fans reacted, it was just insane,” Buege told KIRO Newsradio. “I was a kid. I was not quite seven when they moved here and the city, I mean, they went crazy over this team after waiting half a century. You can imagine the reaction.

“When they arrived from spring training in ‘53, they came up through Chicago on a train and they disembarked on Wisconsin Avenue,” Buege continued. “And there was a parade set up. They had open convertibles,” Buege said. “And from that moment on, I mean, everybody in the area knew that they were in the major league.”



Milwaukee waited 52 years to get a Major League Baseball team after the original Brewers left after one season in 1901; when the Braves moved there from Boston in April 1953, they were welcomed like heroes. (Milwaukee County Historical Society)

Famers like [Warren Spahn](#) and [Hank Aaron](#) were on the roster, and the Braves won the World Series in 1957 and won the pennant again in 1958. It was a golden age for the fans and the team.

When Buege mentioned that Milwaukee had waited “half a century” to get a major league team, I wasn’t sure what he meant. As he explained that delay of more than 50 years, I started to develop feelings of empathy for Bob and other longtime Milwaukee baseball fans and to feel a little less bad about how Milwaukee stole the Pilots in 1970.

Buege says that in 1901, when the American League was created, Milwaukee was home to one of the original eight teams. That team was called – you guessed it – the Milwaukee Brewers.

Does this next part sound somewhat familiar?

“They were not successful financially,” Buege said. “They played in a dumpy ballpark that was nothing attractive. And so they stayed one year.”

Wait a minute? Was Bob now talking about the 1969 Seattle Pilots?

Actually, Buege was describing the inaugural season of the 1901 Milwaukee Brewers of the American League, but he could’ve been describing the Pilots. The parallels are downright eerie.

Buege says those original American League Brewers left after one season, and moved in 1902 to St. Louis and changed their name to the Browns. They eventually moved to Baltimore in 1954 and became the Orioles.

Thus, when the Braves arrived at that heroes’ welcome and parade in 1953, Milwaukee had been waiting for an incredible 52 years to get a Major League Baseball team back in Wisconsin. In comparison, Seattle only had to wait seven years for the Mariners after the Pilots left – though, for NBA fans, it’s been 14 years and counting since the Sonics decamped for Oklahoma City.

Oddly enough, with the Braves, Milwaukee had only about a decade-long love affair with the team before it all went sour. The Braves weren’t terrible – they never had a losing season in Milwaukee – but a new owner from Chicago named William Bartholomay took over in 1962. He and his investors started shopping around for a better deal in a bigger TV market. Atlanta was on the rise and built a new stadium, and, says Buege, had the backing of Atlanta-based Coca-Cola. Before too long, they got themselves the baseball version of the Real Thing.

“It was very bitter the last year that they were here,” Buege said about the Braves’ final chapter in Milwaukee. “They wanted to move to Atlanta in time for the 1965 season, and they were stopped because they had a lease on [Milwaukee] County Stadium that they had to fulfill.

“So they had one year as a lame-duck team, and their attendance was just over half a million,” Buege continued. “So it was about a fifth of what it had been at its peak.”

By 1966, Milwaukee baseball fans were heartbroken. You could almost say they had been ‘Clay Bennett-ed’ – had their team sold out from under them to an out-of-towner who then moved them away. But that’s when Milwaukee businessman Bud Selig – who was only in his early 30s at that point – started doing what might be called ‘Chris Hansen-ing’ – looking for a wounded or weakened team to buy and bring home to hungry fans.

With the Pilots’ problems in 1969 and ultimate bankruptcy, they were ripe for the picking, and Bud Selig was the guy to do it, says Buege.

“Bud Selig is the champion of the current Brewers,” Buege said. “I mean, [he’s the] former owner and so forth, but he worked tirelessly – I sound like a PR man for him – but he really did.”

But even a new major league team wasn’t enough to heal Buege’s wounds.

Buege says he was so disillusioned by the departure of the Braves, that he didn’t even go to a Milwaukee Brewers game until their second season in 1971. And he said those first several years of crummy Brewers baseball were heartbreaking for anyone who had been around for the glory years of the Milwaukee Braves.

“The first year the Brewers were here, I didn’t go to any [games],” Buege said. “That’s kind of a measure of how much it bothered me – and you didn’t have trouble getting tickets because they didn’t sell many in those days.

“It was just such a painful thing to anybody who had experienced the Milwaukee Braves to watch the Milwaukee Brewers and see how big a difference there was,” Buege continued. “I mean, one was just this really powerful team with these great players, future Hall of Famers. And then you look at the Brewers, and you know Bud Selig is trying to sell a product that he knows is just inferior.

“You know, it just wasn’t the same,” Buege said.

But Buege eventually came around to being a Brewers fan, and he particularly appreciates the [Wall of Honor](#) that was installed at the Brewers’ ballpark in 2004. Each year, he helps select a new player to add to the list of those enshrined at Milwaukee’s home to Major League Baseball, helping connect the golden age of the Braves to the Brewers’ current efforts.

If the experiences of Bob Buege and other Milwaukee fans – and any Seattle fans, for that matter – are typical, it should be clear by now that baseball history rhymes, repeats, and always eventually breaks your heart.

So then, I say ‘go Mariners,’ but just don’t ‘go’ like the Pilots. And in the meantime, maybe I’ll next see if I can change my feelings toward Oklahoma City.

*You can hear Feliks every Wednesday and Friday morning on Seattle’s Morning News with Dave Ross and Colleen O’Brien, read more from him [here](#), and subscribe to The Resident Historian Podcast [here](#). If you have a story idea or questions, please email Feliks [here](#).*

Feliks Banel, “Eerie Parallels of Baseball History in Seattle and Milwaukee” 97.3 FM, KIRO News Radio, Seattle, WA, October 5, 2022

[Return to Trivia Questions](#)

### **Schabowski's Super Stumpers**

#### November Answers:

1. 1903, Boston Americans-Pittsburgh Pirates. Americans won five games to three. Best of nine.
2. Clemens and Verlander.
3. Derek Jeter 683 AB's 2021
4. Frank Crossetti, NYY, 1932.
5. First three batters for the Astros had extra base hits.