



# EMIL ROTHE CHICAGO CHAPTER

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*Above: On Sunday, October 10, 2021, the Chicago White Sox defeated the Houston Astros, 12-6, during ALDS Game 3 at Guaranteed Rate Field. (Photo: Bill Pearch)*

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## NEW HOME OF THE BELOIT SNAPPERS A NICE TRIP FOR SABR CHAPTERS

BY: TIM CZUBA



On September 11, the Emil Rothe Chapter met the Ken Keltner Milwaukee chapter for one last ballgame outing as late summer cascaded into fall. It was a treat to get a chance to see the Beloit Snappers' new home, ABC Supply Stadium, on the banks of the Rock River, before the MiLB season wrapped up. The Snappers took on the South Bend Cubs, so there were more than a few Cub fans anxious to see the prospects.

The group was allowed into the ballpark early as we were treated to a pregame meet up with Max Thoma and John Rawson, game announcers for the Cubs and Snappers, respectively, and Todd Johnson, Cubs Central photographer. The nice Q&A lasted for close to an hour as each talked about their respective jobs and gave a scouting report for each team.

ABC Supply Stadium had just opened up for business in August during the middle of the Snappers' season. The park is beautiful, a modern minor league ballpark with some nice old-school touches such as brick structures and wrought iron intricacies. The first baseline building entrance is impressive as it looks like a transit building from the 1920s, which is appropriate seeing there is a public transit bus hub just outside right field. The concourse is large and surrounds field. A nice touch is the wrought iron gated centerfield ticket entrance which looks out on the town of Beloit.

The chapters had terrific seats behind the Snappers' dugout on the first base line. Sight lines are good from all parts of the park, although I could've done without the thousands of gnats that migrated from the Rock River immediately next to the park along the third base line. It wasn't too bad in our seats, but if you're sitting on that side of the field, it could be uncomfortable.

My only complaint would be the lack of concession facilities. While the park was not at capacity (3,500 seats), I had to wait in line for more than five minutes to order and then another five to get my order. I will chalk that up to the park being new.

**- CONTINUED ON PAGE 11 -**



BY JASON A. SCHWARTZ

Four cards, one player. Can you guess who?



# WAR (WHAT IS IT GOOD FOR?)

## DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BASEBALL REFERENCE AND FANGRAPHS

BY: SCOTT LINDHOLM

A couple of months ago, I met fellow Emil Rothe Chapter member Chris Kamka for lunch, since we try to get together every couple of months or so. One of our discussion points was the differences in Wins Above Replacement (WAR) values depending on whether one was viewing Baseball-Reference or FanGraphs, as well as differences between position players and pitchers.

The differences are real, and extremely complex. I don't pretend to understand the formulas for either version, but I do understand the general philosophy behind them. They work to measure player contributions while solving for issues such as league, playing conditions, park factor and other criteria. If interested, this is a very interesting and thorough article describing the [differences between Baseball-Reference and FanGraphs WAR values](#), and it's not for the faint of heart.

But are these differences material? Surprisingly not, with many caveats to follow. This chart shows the best all-time shortstops and their respective WAR values and, most importantly, WAR ranks (see chart to the right).

WAR is Baseball-Reference WAR, fWAR is FanGraphs, BRR is the Baseball-Reference WAR rank, and FGR is the FanGraphs rank. For the top 20 shortstops as ranked by Baseball-Reference, the FanGraphs rank is very similar. The variations that exist (Yount,

Top: According to numbers, Honus Wagner ranked atop both lists. (Photo: CBS Sports / Getty Images)

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Player	From	To	WAR	fWAR	BRR	FGR	HOF
Honus Wagner	1897	1917	131.0	138.2	1	1	1936
Álex Rodríguez	1994	2016	117.7	113.7	2	2	
Cal Ripken	1981	2001	96.1	92.7	3	3	2007
George Davis	1890	1909	84.9	84.6	4	4	1998
Arky Vaughan	1932	1948	78.2	72.4	5	8	1985
Robin Yount	1974	1993	77.5	66.6	6	12	1999
Ozzie Smith	1978	1996	77.2	67.5	7	9	2002
Luke Appling	1930	1950	77.0	72.6	8	7	1964
Bill Dahlen	1891	1911	75.4	77.4	9	5	
Derek Jeter	1995	2014	71.5	73.0	10	6	2020
Alan Trammell	1977	1996	70.7	63.9	11	14	2018
Barry Larkin	1986	2004	70.5	67.2	12	10	2012
Bobby Wallace	1894	1918	70.4	62.3	13	16	1953
Pee Wee Reese	1940	1958	68.3	61.3	14	17	1984
Ernie Banks	1953	1971	68.0	63.2	15	15	1977
Joe Cronin	1926	1945	64.2	66.7	16	11	1956
Lou Boudreau	1938	1952	63.0	64.3	17	13	1970
Jack Glasscock	1879	1895	62.0	60.1	18	18	
Luis Aparicio	1956	1973	55.9	49.0	19	22	1984
Joe Sewell	1920	1933	53.9	48.1	20	24	1977



**CLICK HERE TO PLAY**  
CAN YOU NAME THE MOST  
COMMON SURNAMES IN  
BASEBALL FROM 1871-2009?

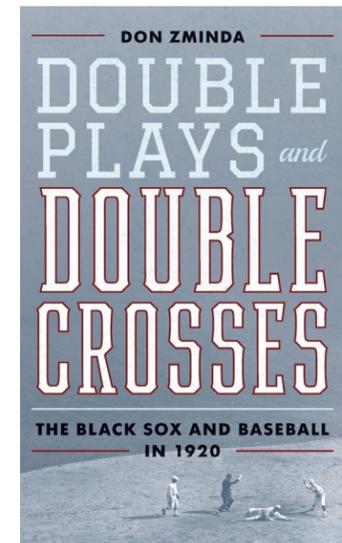
# THE NEXT SEASON

BY: RICHARD SMILEY



Two books recently published by authors with ties to Chicago cover the years of local teams that immediately followed infamous seasons. Don Zminda writes about the aftermath of the Black Sox Scandal, while William Bike reviews the Cubs after the infamous 1969 collapse. Both the 1920 Chicago White Sox and 1970 Chicago Cubs were teams that returned the main core of players from the previous season bringing high expectations from their fan base, started the season hot, slumped in the middle of the season and charged back into contention in early September only to fall short of first at the end. Each team is a fascinating subject that the authors do a good job of bringing to life.

Don Zminda's *Double Plays and Double Crosses: The Black Sox and Baseball in 1920* (Rowman & Littlefield, 344 pages, 2021) is an exceptional book that highlights a season in which players playing to win and other players sometimes playing to lose coexisted on the same team. The book runs through the season chronologically, immersing the reader in the ongoing uncovering of the Black Sox Scandal.



This approach provides the context under which White Sox owner Charles Comiskey made his fateful decision to re-sign as many of the players under suspicion as possible for the 1920 season. While rumors of a fix appeared during and after the 1919 World Series, the discussion was not mainstream and Comiskey was the only member of the baseball establishment actively investigating the claims. As it came time for him to form a roster for the 1920 season, he did look into a couple of trade possibilities involving suspected players—but those talks went nowhere. The possibility of just cutting the players outright was rejected—possibly due to fears of defamation lawsuits, but more likely due to damage to the franchise's talent. All of suspected players (except for Chick Gandil) returned to the White Sox season for the 1920 season with raises in hand.

And what a season it was! The White Sox got off to a quick start before settling into a long three-team race in which they were slightly ahead or behind the Cleveland Indians and New York Yankees. The Indians were driven by an exceptional pitching staff, Hall-of-Famer Tris Speaker, and star shortstop Ray Chapman. In August, Chapman became the only player ever killed by a pitched baseball in a major league game. He was replaced in the lineup by the up-and-coming Joe Sewell who went on to a Hall of Fame career. The Yankees were driven by Babe Ruth's breakout season during which he hit an unheard of 54 home runs and a 26-win season from Carl Mays—the pitcher who hit Chapman.

The White Sox were still in the thick of the race in September when a Grand Jury in Chicago turned its attention to the 1919 World Series. Suspicions were rampant on many fronts that even some 1920 games were being tossed by the "Black Sox" players. The White Sox were still alive in the pennant race entering the final week of the season when word of confessions to the Grand Jury from Eddie Cicotte, Claude Williams, and Joe Jackson about their roles in the 1919 World Series fix resulted

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# CHICAGO RANDOM TANDEM



## PHIL CAVARRETTA & DANNY MURPHY



The only two Cubs players to hit home runs as teenagers—Phil Cavarretta and Danny Murphy—only played for two teams in their respective careers. Each spent the final two years of his Major League career with the White Sox.

Have a sweet Chicago Random Tandem?  
Send it to [j.racanelli@hotmail.com](mailto:j.racanelli@hotmail.com)!

## GET SOCIAL WITH SABR'S EMIL ROTHE CHICAGO CHAPTER

THERE ARE FIVE EASY WAYS TO INTERACT WITH CHICAGO CHAPTER MEMBERS.  
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# SABR COMPLETES WILLIAMSON GRAVE MARKER PROJECT

BY: SAM GAZDZIAK

The Society for American Baseball Research (SABR) 19th Century Grave Marker Project completed its latest grave marker installation on Saturday, November 6. We held a dedication ceremony in Rosehill Cemetery to honor 19th Century home run king Ed Williamson. There will be a full story about Ed's life and times available soon, but for now, let's talk about the day and the group that gathered in his memory.

Scheduling an outdoor event on a Saturday in November in Chicago is always a risky proposition, but the weather was just beautiful—sunny and unseasonably warm. A sizable crowd of baseball historians, Cubs fans and even a few token White Sox fans showed up to pay their respects. As chair of the Grave Marker project, I welcomed the crowd and gave a few introductory remarks before turning it over to the real baseball experts. Dave Stevens, a historian and author who happened to live in the area, spoke a little about Ed Williamson and his friendship with fellow ballplayer John Montgomery Ward. Dave had written an article about Ed for a SABR publication, and it was called "The Home Run King without a Headstone." He was happy that, more than 15 years after the article was published, we finally ruined his great headline.

Chicago SABR Vice-chair Richard Smiley then gave an excellent, compelling story about Ed's life and career. He mentioned that many of Ed's contemporaries called him the best all-around baseball player they ever saw. It's an accurate description, too. Ed wasn't the best at any one particular aspect of baseball—though you could make the argument that he was the best defensive third baseman of his era. What he did do was be very good at every aspect of the game. He was a good hitter, he had patience at the plate, and he could hit for power—regardless of

the dimensions of his home ballpark. He was an outstanding fielder and had a cannon for an arm. In spite of his size, he was a good baserunner too. And he could play practically any position on the field. His versatility was invaluable, and though he was sometimes overshadowed by the Hall of Famers and other superstars who were on his Chicago White Stockings teams of the 1880s, he was a key part of one of baseball's first great dynasties.

I thanked a few people in my opening remarks, and I would like to repeat those thank-yous now. This was my first time taking the lead for a grave marker project, and the one thing I came away with is that it's much easier to do it when you have a good team. So:

Thank you to the other members of the Grave Marker Project: Ralph Carhart, John Thorn, Peter Mancuso and Bob Bailey. Since I first started doing the detective work into Ed Williamson's whereabouts and later became chair of the Project, they have all given me good advice, words of encouragement and valuable

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 -

## GET PUBLISHED!

You're conducting baseball research, now let SABR's Emil Rothe Chicago Chapter help. We are looking for new articles to publish in the Chapter's newsletter and our social media outlets. Submit your articles to Bill Pearch, newsletter editor, via email at [wcpearch@comcast.net](mailto:wcpearch@comcast.net) for inclusion in an upcoming edition.

## UNKNOWN LEGENDS

BY: JASON SCHWARTZ

*This series takes a look at the legendary ballplayers that most fans forgot ever suited up with our local teams. Where possible we'll present baseball card evidence of their Second City tenure.*

### Bob Caruthers

Our first unknown legend is a player who frequently surfaces as a strong candidate for Cooperstown among 19th century players. That said, in keeping with the spirit of this column, his case for enshrinement most definitely did not come from his time here in Chicago. His career with the Colts (Cubs) lasted only one game, good for three at-bats and no hits. (Lest you think you could have managed similar, I should add that he did draw a base on balls.)

Did young fans that day even know that Chicago's nonce outfielder had previously put up two-way numbers that would make Shohei Ohtani blush? It's true! In 1886, only seven years prior to his stint with our local nine, he won 30 games as a pitcher, posting a stingy 2.32 ERA, while leading the American Association in OBP, OPS, and OPS+. What's more, this unknown legend twice won 40 (!) games to go with season highs of 14 triples, 49 stolen bases, and a .357 batting average.

With numbers like these, it's no wonder Bob Caruthers was SABR's 2017 "Overlooked 19th Century Base Ball Legend" and amassed a career WAR of 59.5, matching modern era superstars Vlad Guerrero (Senior) and Mike Piazza. His brief time in Chicago did not warrant any hometown baseball cards, either during his career or afterward, but his two-way prowess is hinted at by multiple poses (with Brooklyn) in the 1887-90 Old Judge set. His exalted status in the game also made him one of only eight baseball players selected for the handsome 1888 Goodwin Champions multi-sport issue.



## ROWLAND AND MAN WHO SUCCEEDS HIM. 5



### Kid Gleason

Keeping up our dual threat theme, our second unknown legend was a four-time 20-game winner on the hill who also held his own in the batter's box, banging out 1946 career hits and twice swiping more than 40 bases. His 41.8 career WAR places him just a hair below Hughie Jennings and Don Mattingly. However, his numbers with Chicago were a bit more modest: only a [single game](#) in 1912 at the age of 45, though he did go one for two at the plate while trading in his coaching duties for a second baseman's glove.



The South Side portion of this player's career meets all the qualifications for total anonymity. Nonetheless, it's our hometown White Sox with whom this pitcher-infielder will forever be associated. How could this be? Simple. Seven years after his one-game stint at second base, he took over as Sox manager, just in time for the 1919 season.

The ill-fated skipper has no baseball cards from his playing days—or should I say day—with the South Side squad. However, he has several cards as Sox manager, a role he held through 1923. Gleason's 1919-21 W514 strip card is shown here with two of the more notable members of his 1919 pennant winning ballclub.

*Thinking of an "unknown legend" that you would like to nominate? Send Jason an email at [jason.1969@yahoo.com](mailto:jason.1969@yahoo.com).*

## MISS BASEBALL ALREADY?

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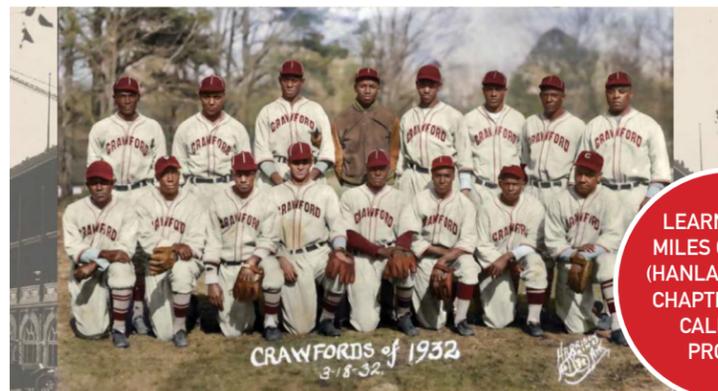


## RIVERSIDE PARK DAWSON SPRINGS, KENTUCKY

Located in Dawson Springs, Kentucky, Riverside Park was Spring Training home to the Pittsburgh Pirates from 1914 to 1917. After the grandstand was destroyed by a Tradewater River flood in the 1930s, the ballpark was rebuilt from the original blueprints in 1999. Adjacent to the field is the dam where Honus Wagner would fish in his leisure time.

Riverside Park is located at 901 West Arcadia Avenue, Dawson Springs, KY 42408 ([37.160647](tel:37.160647), [-87.698076](tel:-87.698076))

*If you go out of your way to visit old ballparks, historical markers, statues, or gravesites we would love to hear about it! Send your experiences and photos to [j.racanelli@hotmail.com](mailto:j.racanelli@hotmail.com)!*



## ZEMAN'S ZINGERS

BY: DAVE ZEMAN

The Atlanta Braves defeated the Houston Astros to win the 2021 World Series. For the final chapter newsletter of the year, here's a special World Series-related installment of trivia questions to challenge your knowledge of the game and general history. Fans of *Jeopardy!* will be familiar with before and after categories. For these questions, two answers are combined to make one correct response. Ready? Play ball!

1. Three pitchers have thrown shutouts in the World Series since 2000. Who accomplished this increasingly rare feat?
2. Before Jorge Soler, what two players were World Series MVPs after starting that season with another team?
3. Twenty-one grand slams have been hit in World Series competition but only five by National Leaguers. Name this quintet.
4. What was the sole fall classic featuring a 1-0 victory by each of the teams?
5. Besides the last question's answer what was the only other World Series with two 1-0 contests?

## SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2021: HOW DID YOU DO?

1. 2019 Scarlett Johansson hit / 1922 Pirate who set the record for most AB in a homerless season / Jojo Rabbit Maranville
2. Terminator target / 2021 Rockie and cancer survivor / Sarah Connor Joe
3. Robin Hood buddy / .300 hitting rookie for the 1934 Cubs / Friar Tuck Stainback
4. RCA canines / first pick in the 1990 first year player draft / Nipper and Chipper Jones
5. Hall of Famer who died on his 68th birthday in 1948 / John le Carre thriller / Joe Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy



## TOP TEN: MOST SAVES IN A SEASON BY A CHICAGO PITCHER

RANK	PITCHER	SAVES	YEAR	TEAM
1	BOBBY THIGPEN	57*	1990	WHITE SOX
2	RANDY MYERS	53	1993	CUBS
3	ROD BECK	51	1998	CUBS
4	KEITH FOULKE	42	2001	WHITE SOX
5	BOBBY JENKS	41	2006	WHITE SOX
6	ADDISON REED	40	2013	WHITE SOX
	BOBBY JENKS	40	2007	WHITE SOX
8	LIAM HENDRIKS	38	2021	WHITE SOX
	CARLOS MARMOL	38	2010	CUBS
	ROBERTO HERNANDEZ	38	1996	WHITE SOX
	RANDY MYERS	38	1995	CUBS
	ROBERTO HERNANDEZ	38	1993	WHITE SOX

\* THIGPEN'S MAJOR LEAGUE RECORD OF 57 SAVES STOOD UNTIL ANGELS CLOSER FRANCISCO RODRIGUEZ POSTED 62 SAVES IN 2008.

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

## SABR MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

We all have great baseball stories. Go ahead and share some with your fellow SABR Chicago Chapter members. Contact Bill Pearch, newsletter editor, via email at [wcpearch@comcast.net](mailto:wcpearch@comcast.net) to schedule a brief interview.





# "ONCE UPON A TIME IN QUEENS" DELIVERS EVERYTHING AND MORE ON '86 METS

BY: TIM CZUBA

When I heard that ESPN was filming a four-part documentary on the 1986 New York Mets, arguably one of the best baseball teams in the last forty years, I was ecstatic! Not a whole lot of teams were as fun and interesting to watch on a daily basis, not to mention a cast of characters that the best Hollywood casting director would have a hard time piecing together. The documentary delivers the goods and so much more.

Full disclosure. In 1986, I was a nineteen-year-old White Sox fan living here in the western suburbs. The Sox were bad. Hawk was the GM and he fired Tony LaRussa early on in the season. Darryl Boston was the Sox's #1 prospect and we all know how that turned out. There wasn't much going on in my baseball world, except ....

The New York Mets were shown nightly on basic cable channel WOR out of New York. For me, it was easy to like the Mets. Keith Hernandez was one of my favorite players. The young wizardry of Darryl Strawberry (why couldn't the Sox have that Darryl?) and "Doc" Gooden was something to behold. Glue guys like Ray Knight and Wally Backman were interesting. Gary Carter was a future Hall of Famer and a moth. Lenny Dykstra was out and out crazy. And that pitching staff. In addition to Gooden, you had Ron Darling, Sid Fernandez and Roger McDowell, among others, who just shut the door on teams night after night. Holding it all together was Davey Johnson with the bottle of Roloids right behind his shoulder on the bench.

The documentary starts with the woes of the '70s Met teams, but quickly turns to the hiring of Frank Cashen as general manager. Cashen came from the Orioles organization, one of the best of the '70s. I found it interesting that he didn't just try and build through the farm system and he didn't go into the top free-agent

market at all. **Frank Cashen made trades.** The first notable trade was for Hernandez, a former MVP and World Series champion with the Cardinals. But he also acquired Darling for Lee Mazzilli, Fernandez for Bob Bailor and Knight for a player to be named later. The big trade for Carter included Hubie Brooks. And let's not forget obtaining Bob Ojeda for Calvin Schiraldi. Talk about maximizing your current roster and fleecing the league in trades!

In addition to Strawberry and Gooden, the farm system produced McDowell, Rick Aguilera, Mookie Wilson, Backman, Dykstra, along with Randy Myers, future MVP Kevin Mitchell and Kevin Elster, who split time at short with one of Cashen's only free agent signings, Rafael Santana.

The doc slowly traced the rise of the team from the unexpected competition with the Cubs in 1984 to the rivalry with the Cardinals starting in 1985. The interesting story of the '84 season was Davey Johnson pleading with Frank Cashen to let nineteen-year-old Dwight Gooden break with the team out of spring training. They went fairly in depth with the 1985 season, starting with the Gary Carter trade and Gooden's awesome season, in which the Mets won 98 games, but finished three games behind the Cards and out of the playoffs.

The 1986 season takes up the last half of the doc. An early sweep of the Cards in St. Louis paved the way for the Mets to run roughshod over the NL East. The documentary delved deeper into the off-field stuff of the team including the drug problems of Strawberry and Doc; Darling, Ojeda, Aguilera and Tim Teufel's arrest in a Houston bar; Carter's penchant for wanting to be in

## NEXT SEASON (CONTINUED)

in the suspension of a good portion of the White Sox team by Comiskey. The White Sox finished the season in second place, two games behind Cleveland who would go on to win the World Series.

Zminda reviews the rumors and evidence about what games may have been thrown by the 1920 White Sox and hints that the final number may have only been a few. But it may have been just enough to ensure that the White Sox did not finish first. It is possible that the players were not paid for any of these games, but rather were acting out of blackmail threats from gamblers threatening to expose what they knew about the 1919 World Series. Zminda's review suggests that there is a reasonable possibility that the Black Sox threw not only the 1919 World Series, but also the 1920 Pennant Race.

This book is a very well written, engrossing read. Those who do choose to read it will also be treated to finding out about Fred McMullin's role in the scandal (Why was a bench player given a full share?) and about the period of time in 1920 when the White Sox were out of the American League race.

William Bike's *The Forgotten 1970 Cubs: Go and Glow* (The History Press, 144 pages, 2021) is a fun and personal recap of the 1970 Cubs season.

The book picks up the story of the Durocher Cubs in the immediate aftermath of the 1969 season and proceeds forward through the season highlighting the many ups and downs and numerous player transactions. It finishes with an appendix which provides quick summaries of the post-Cubs careers of all of the players on the team.

Bike was 13 years old during the 1970 season and this provides a unique strength to the book—the sharing of the experience of watching the team and attending Cubs games back in the early 1970s. He shares his memories of scorecards with Ken Henning artwork on the cover; the left field chain-link fence where kids would use discarded beer and soda cups to spell out "Cubs #1"; the post-game flipping of a row of seats by kids that secured a pass for the next day's game; and more. The memories are supplemented by personal (non-professional) photos by Bike and his friends that highlight what Wrigley Field looked like at the time.

The choice of the professional photos included in the book is also good—pictures of the 1970 scorecard design; of Ernie Banks returning to the dugout after his 500th homerun; and Bill Hands winding up for a pitch with the bullpen in the background.

The book's recap of the season itself is good and concise. Like the 1920 White Sox, the 1970 Cubs came out of the gates on fire and drew immediate interest. Ernie Banks' 500th home run was an early season highlight, but Ernie was getting phased out over the course of the season. The break-out season by Jim Hickman combined with the hot start by Johnny Callison led to more and more appearances with Hickman at first.

The deal with the Phillies in which the Cubs acquired Callison cost the Cubs Dick Selma. That kicked off a series of transactions in which the Cubs would trade away pitchers such as Ted Abernathy and Larry Gura who would prove in short time to be useful elsewhere. With Phil Regan having an off year, the

process led to a hole in the Cubs bullpen and a season-long quest to fill it. Along with Leo Durocher's ill-fated decision to do mid-season managing through his radio show, Bike identifies these trades as a main reason the Cubs could not overcome the Pirates for first place.

To their credit, the Cubs front office did make numerous moves in an attempt to improve the team and made two excellent mid-season acquisitions at minimal cost. Joe Pepitone was purchased from the Houston Astros and made an immediate impact to the line-up, providing punch to the order and filling a center-field hole. He quickly became a fan favorite. Milt Pappas was purchased from the Atlanta Braves and immediately took over as the team's fourth starter, winning 10 games and posting a 2.68 earned run average.

Like Zminda does for the Black Sox, Bike speculates on alternate endings for the team. But in this case, he uses descriptions of simulated computer games to replay the NLCS and World Series in the book's weakest chapter. Independent of those games, he makes a good case for the Cubs beating the beating Reds—the Durocher-era Cubs always competed well against the early incarnations of the Big Red Machine. But the concluding section in which the Cubs take out the pitching and defense rich Baltimore Orioles in games involving scores of 8-7 (twice), and 9-2 left me skeptical of the simulations.

Overall, I think the book does a good job of bringing back fond memories for those who saw the Cubs play games in person in that period of time. 🍷

## WAR (CONTINUED)

Dahlen and Jeter being the prime examples) can usually be understood in terms of defense, or in Yount's case, that only about half his career was as a shortstop.

I did this for every position, and for every player with at least 2,000 PAs. For shortstops, there are 346 players, and as one goes lower in the rankings, some significant differences begin to appear.

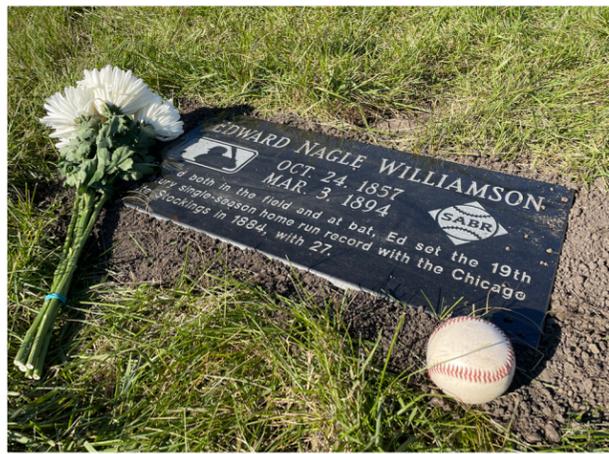
But not as many as I thought. You don't need to take my word for it—this [Google Doc Spreadsheet](#) shows all the positions and all the players. There's an added bonus in there as well that you'll have to look and see for yourself.

WAR has changed the way players are viewed and evaluated. Its use has clearly influenced modern Hall of Fame voting, and probably exerted a large influence in the candidacies of Tim Lincecum, Edgar Martinez and Larry Walker. It would be nice if there were a synchronization between Baseball-Reference and FanGraphs, but in the end, it doesn't seem to matter all that much. Wins Above Replacement is a means to an end, the end being a fair ranking of players, and both versions appear to reach very similar conclusions.

For pitchers, not so much. But that's a different discussion. 🍷

SOME ARTWORK PROVIDED BY:

**Vecteezy**



## WILLIAMSON GRAVE (CONTINUED)

resources. Ralph, as the past chair of the committee, walked me through all the details and steps when I didn't know what I was doing. It's a privilege to associate with some of great experts and good people.

Thank you to my new friends in the SABR Chicago chapter, especially Bill Pearch and Richard Smiley. They enthusiastically jumped into this project and helped create a very successful dedication. Thank you to everyone at SABR HQ who helped promote this event, and the writers like Jordan Bastian and Tony Andracki who boosted the signal as well. Thank you to David Stalker, who made a beautiful grave marker for Ed, as he has done for all the other markers that the Grave Marker Project has placed. Thank you to the Chicago Cubs, who expressed gratitude and interest in what we do. It's wonderful to see a major-league team be so aware of and appreciate its own history.

Lastly, thank you to the staff of Rosehill Cemetery, particularly my contact Diedre. This would have all come to a screeching halt if the cemetery had refused our request or been unwilling to search its records. Instead, Diedre went into the cemetery archives to pore over the original interment records, eventually locating Ed's present location. Rosehill is a beautiful cemetery, and its grounds hold the final resting places of captains of Chicago industry, mayors, aldermen, a vice president, Civil War veterans and other war heroes, actors and—this being Chicago—gangsters. There's a strong baseball connection there as well, as it's the final resting place of Jack Brickhouse, Jerome Holtzman, participants in the Black Sox scandal and several other ballplayers as well. Some are marked, some are not. But for those who wish to pay their respects, Ed Williamson is easy to find in Section 6, by the fence on Peterson Avenue. 🍷

# 2022 NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

Chicago's Emil Rothe Chapter is a bimonthly publication. We are always looking for new contributors.

Here is the upcoming production schedule, corresponding deadlines for content, and potential topics for lead stories. If you would like to contribute to a future issue of our Chapter newsletter, contact Bill Pearch at [wcpearch@comcast.net](mailto:wcpearch@comcast.net).

## JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2022

Published: January 9  
Content Deadline: December 12  
Topics: 2021 Season Recap, SABR Day Promotion, Chapter News/Events

## MARCH-APRIL 2022

Published: March 6  
Content Deadline: February 6  
Topics: SABR Day Recap, MLB Opening Day, Spring Training Recap, Chapter News/Events

## MAY-JUNE 2022

Published: May 1  
Content Deadline: April 3  
Topics: Minor League Baseball, Independent Leagues, Chapter News/Events

## JULY-AUGUST 2022

Published: July 3  
Content Deadline: June 5  
Topics: Season Status Updates, MLB Trade Deadline, Chapter News/Events

## SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2022

Published: September 4  
Content Deadline: July 31  
Topics: Postseason Preview/Predictions, Chapter News/Events

## NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2022

Published: November 6  
Content Deadline: October 2  
Topics: World Series Recap, Chapter News/Events



## PASTIME PASSAGE

"He [Hoyt Wilhelm] had the best knuckleball you'd ever want to see. He knew where it was going when he threw it, but when he got two strikes on you, he'd break out one that even he didn't know where it was going."

—Brooks Robinson, *The Index-Journal*  
(Greenwood, South Carolina), August 25, 2002

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

## '86 METS (CONTINUED)

front of the camera and other shenanigans of a team so good, they felt like they could do no wrong in the city that never sleeps.

The NLCS against Houston and the World Series against the Red Sox were covered in great detail. Met hitters talked unabashedly about Mike Scott loading up the ball for the Astros, how they had evidence to this day, and how nobody really cared. The drama of that series is covered in detail and covered very well.

The World Series, of course, concentrates on the infamous Game Six, where the Mets scored three in the bottom of the ninth with two out to save their season and continue "The Curse of the Bambino," but what I found interesting was the mindset the team had after going down 2-0 at home and mounting a comeback because losing the World Series would have made the whole season worthless.

People always blame Buckner for the Red Sox collapse, but it's interesting to note that the game was already tied on a Bob Stanley wild pitch when Mookie Wilson hit the dribbler up the first base line.

The Mets subsequent World Series victory and parade talks about Dwight Gooden missing the parade because he was stuck in a crack house on Long Island. Ray Knight getting a one-year contract offer from Frank Cashen just before the parade started and knowing he was not coming back, and Hernandez and Ojeda getting help from Met fans just to get to the parade. No confirmation that those fans were Kramer and Newman.

Overall, the documentary was excellent. It not only captured the team, but the period of time it was all taking place. Excellent commentary by Keith Hernandez, Wally Backman, Bob Ojeda, Dwight Gooden, Darryl Strawberry, etc. made the pieces fit together seamlessly. I would have loved to have heard Gary Carter's take on everything and I'm sure he would've been willing to share, but his untimely death from cancer in 2012 prevented that from happening.

On a personal note, seeing Lenny Dykstra talk in the documentary made me wish he hadn't. On the demise of a team so dominant for one year, the documentary said that two stars (Hernandez and Carter) were past their prime and two young stars (Strawberry and Gooden) were drug addicts. 🍷



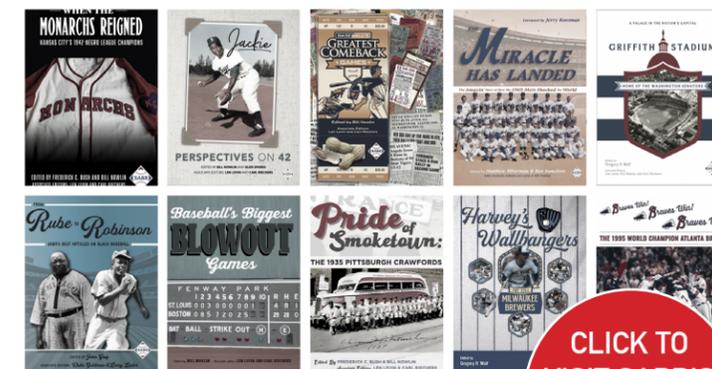
## SNAPPERS (CONTINUED)

Hopefully, that issue will be rectified before the 2022 season.

The game itself was not overly exciting as the Snappers, a Miami Marlins affiliate, defeated the Cubs, 4-0. Snappers starting pitcher Eury Perez took a no-hitter into the fifth before surrendering a double to Yonathan Perlaza with one out. South Bend could not capitalize and three Snapper relievers allowed only two more base runners, both walks, as the Cubs ended up getting one hit.

Cubs starter Chris Clarke only gave up three runs on eight hits over seven innings, but his offense did him no favors on this night. I was really impressed with the Snapper hitter's approach at the plate, as they were more than willing to hit behind runners and go the opposite way on many of their hits. One wonders if that approach comes from the very top in owner Derek Jeter or is it an organizational philosophy implemented by first year GM Kim Ng?

The night ended with fireworks as we remembered 9/11, the memory of the deceased and the sacrifice of first responders in New York City. All in all, the outing was a happy and relaxing success. As Harry used to say, "You can't beat fun at the old ballpark." We look forward to meeting up with our SABR friends to the north again, hopefully at SABR Day 2022 in January. 🍷



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