

KELTNER'S HOT CORNER



Ken Keltner Badger State Chapter

May 2023 In This Issue:

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Keltner Spring Chapter Meeting

May 6 @ 11AM
J&B's Blue Ribbon Bar & Grill

Buege, Schabowski & Pearch
From The Braves to the Brewers
May 11 @ 6 PM CT
County Historical Society

Matt Klentak – Brewer Baseball Operations
Zoom, May 24 @ 7 PM CT
Sign up [Here](#)

Fond du Lack Dock Spiders Game vs WI Rapids
Saturday, June 3

SABR 51
Chicago, July 5 - 9, 2023
Palmer House – Chicago
More Info [Here](#)

Direct questions or comments to:
Dennis D. Degenhardt
bovine9@icloud.com

New Member
Jevon J. Jaconi – Green Bay

UPCOMING EVENTS

Keltner Spring Chapter Meeting Saturday, May 6 @ 11AM [J&B's Blue Ribbon Bar & Grill](#)



Fellow SABR members, **Jim Misudek**, returned to Fond du Lac after 14 years with major league teams to become the Dock Spiders General Manager; he will be starting his second year. Prior to his return, Jim worked primarily in media relations and communications with the Baltimore Orioles, Atlanta Braves, Cincinnati Reds, and the Milwaukee Brewers. In 2007, he served as an intern in the Brewers media relations department and 2008 was spent as a sales representative while assisting with media relations duties. Misudek also assisted Major League Baseball and the Brewers media relations department with their 2008 Postseason appearance.



In addition, Jim will talk about his team and what we will see during our pre-game event at our June 3 Dock Spider's game. 🍪



Author, historian and SABR member **Matthew Prigge**, has a new book, [Opening Day in Milwaukee, The Brewers Season Starters 1970 - 2022](#). "Opening day in Milwaukee is an event like no other in baseball--all the pomp and reverence for the return of the season, with a tailgate party like only Brewers fans know how to throw. Each opener creates treasured memories, like Hank Aaron's return to Milwaukee, [Sixto Lezcano's](#) walk-off grand slam, the momentous opening of Miller Park, Lorenzo Cain's game-saving grab or the debuts of a couple of kids named Yount and Molitor. Chronicling a half-century of baseball lore, this book relives 53 home openers and the traditions, oddball characters, unlikely heroes, and Hall of Fame legends they featured."



Matt will have books to sell, and a copy will be included in the chapter raffle. 🍪

Also, **Bob Buege** and **Rick Schabowski** will preview their presentation on [Bob Hazel](#) who the Milwaukee Braves Historical Association is adding to their Wall of Fame at the stadium.

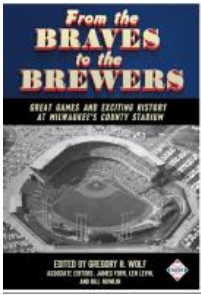
Bob Buege, Rick Schabowski & Bill Pearch

From the Braves to the Brewers

Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Milwaukee County Historical Society

Located at 910 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive



The Milwaukee County Historical Society will host a meeting to discuss the SABR Biobook *From the Braves to the Brewers* with SABR members **Rick Schabowski, Bob Buege, and Bill Pearch**.

This book rekindles memories of Milwaukee's County Stadium through detailed summaries of 72 games played there, and insightful feature essays about the history of the ballpark. The process to select games was agonizing, yet deliberate. The book could have easily been filled with memorable games by just [Hank Aaron](#) or [Warren Spahn](#).

Free program with \$8 museum admission | **MEMBERS FREE**

Please contact [Jolie Diepenhorst](#) of the Historical with any questions.



Matt Klentak - Brewers Special Assistant to GM & President of Baseball Operations Virtual, May 24 @ 7 PM CT



Matt Klentak joined the Brewers front office in January 2022 as a Special Assistant to the General Manager and President of Baseball Operations. Prior to moving to Milwaukee, he was in the Philadelphia Phillies front office spending five years as the team's General Manager from 2016-2020. Although the Phillies did not have a winning record during Klentak's tenure, his moves brought in key players who led the team to the World Series including, J.T. Realmuto, Bryce Harper and Zack Wheeler as well as draftees, infielders Alec Bohn and Bryson Stott and others.

Since Matt is new to the Brewers, this is a good opportunity to get to know about him, his background, and what he is doing with the team. What is his philosophy with trading and what type of ballplayer does he look for? With a month into the new season what is his impression on how things are going and update on injuries. How did the Brewers prepare for the rule changes and how effective have they been? And more

Register in advance [here](#). SABR will forward the Zoom login instructions.



Fond du Lac Dock Spiders Game June 3 @ 6:35 vs. Wisconsin Rapids Meeting time at the ballpark TBD



The Dock Spiders are a sister team of the Brewers Single A affiliate Wisconsin Timber Rattlers and the city of Fond du Lac has a rich baseball history dating back to 1881. The Dock Spiders added to the city's baseball lore by winning the Northwoods League title in two of their first four seasons.

Before the game, we will have a tour of Herr-Baker Field and meet members of the Dock Spiders based on availability, manager, coaches, players, and/or front office. We will establish a time to meet at the ballpark during our May 6 meeting with GM Jim Misudek.

The team will also provide us with discount tickets. If interested in attending, please contact [Dennis](#) with your question so we can complete arrangements with the team.

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](#).

Recap April Virtual Chapter Meeting Management of Professional Baseball with Professor Mary Hums – University of Louisville



Here is a very interesting virtual meeting about a different side of the game with Professor Mary Hums, a Sport Administration professor at the University of Louisville. As a big baseball fan all her life, Mary has an opportunity to teach a Management of Professional Baseball class every other spring as an elective for Louisville's Sport Administration students.

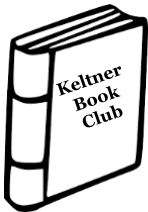
She was also influential in MLB changing the name disabled list to injured list because players may be disabled but are truly injured. It only took 15 years. She wasn't asking for changes in the rule, just the name with good reasons. This was an interesting story.

One aspect of the baseball course is the people in baseball she gets to talk about what they do, GMs, broadcasters, and other leaders in the industry. The course is set up like a ball game, nine innings and she discussed the different parts of the program. Plus, as a group who love baseball, we even talked baseball. And Hums was an athlete and in several hall of fames.

This meeting was very well received with good questions from the audience and informed conversations. Another chapter president asked for Mary's contact information so he could have her speak to his group. To listen to the recording, click on Mary's picture or [here](#).



Keltner Book Club News By Mary Shea



Greetings from NYC!

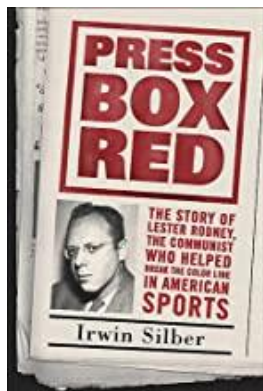
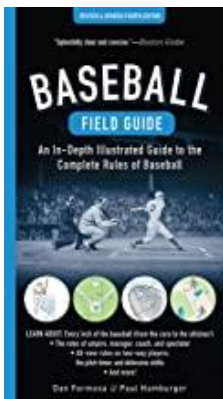
I've been hanging out in Manhattan and Brooklyn, the real birthplace of baseball as we know it, and saw plenty of ball being played in the parks. From Walt Whitman:

"In our sun-down perambulations of late, through the outer parts of Brooklyn," he declared in the *Brooklyn Eagle* of July 23, 1846, "we have observed several parties of youngsters playing 'base,' a certain game of ball.... Let us go forth awhile, and get better air in our lungs. Let us leave our close rooms.... The game of ball is glorious."

Just a heads up that the *Baseball Field Guide* has recently been updated to include the recent rule changes, so this is a great way to get clarification on all baseball rules. Here's a description from the [Boswell Books website](#).

Also, up for consideration is [Press Box Red](#), by Irwin Silber. It was recommended by sport management professor Mary Hums, who joined us for a really interesting virtual meeting. This is a fascinating account of communist sportswriter Lester Rodney's influence on the integration of baseball.

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...Matthew J. Prigge

Matthew Prigge is proud of his near-complete set of signed 1974 Topps cards with 586 of the 600-card set. Has he proudly related, "I've been working on it for over five years and have some great signatures in the set – including [Dick Allen](#), [Tom Seaver](#), [Frank Robinson](#), [Joe Morgan](#), [Johnny Bench](#), [Nolan Ryan](#), [Dave Winfield](#), [Reggie Jackson](#), [Eddie Mathews](#), [Yogi Berra](#), and many more." When asked why the 1974 Topps set, Prigge replied, "Well, the '74 is a nice-looking one for autographs, plus it's from the single-series era, so there aren't any expensive high-number cards that I wouldn't want to chance mailing off to a player. I got a lot of them through the mail."

Matthew J. Prigge was born in Beaver Dam but never lived there, it was the nearest town to the farm where his parents were living with a hospital. He grew up in Manitowoc where he played Little League but did not play sports after that "I was never much of an athlete, although I did get into running later in life. Now, I mostly stick to yoga."

Interest in collecting baseball cards started early and is part of Matthews earliest baseball memory, "I have a distinct memory of collecting baseball cards that were printed on the backs of Macaroni and Cheese boxes when I was about five years old." And he also recalls, "That was the same year I went to my first baseball game, White Sox vs. Brewers at County Stadium." He went with his dad, a big baseball fan who passed the love of the game down to him. Prigge added, "He was always impressed that at five, I actually sat and watched most of the game. He expected that I'd get bored or tired and we'd need to leave early, but I was into it from the start."

Although Prigge's favorite team has always been the Brewers, by time he was 12, they were not offering him (or any of us) the fun parts of baseball, exciting baseball and winning. So, he started following the teams with the big stars and the better squads of the time. That meant during that period, "my top players were guys like [Cal Ripken](#), Frank Thomas, and [Ken Griffey, Jr.](#)" and he added, "The Mariners were my favorite team with a chance back then."

After graduating from Manitowoc's Lincoln High School Prigge attended UW-Milwaukee where he earned three degrees, bachelor's in political science and Masters in both history and library sciences, putting the education to work in several ways. He has been a public librarian in Milwaukee County for almost four years. As he describes it, "It really is a kind of dream job. I really enjoy helping patrons and working with books and I've been able to build a small archive of historical materials for the community, it's really been a blast." Plus, Matthew has done a great deal of writing, 100 or more articles and as well as online features for various local publications. Most of his writing is on topics of Milwaukee history, including three of his four books. He also led tours of Milwaukee's rivers and harbors for nearly ten years and was the host of WMSE's 'What Made Milwaukee Famous' radio program.

Matthew and his wife Erika live in the Milwaukee area along with their four pet rats.

Prigge has been a SABR member for the past three years as well on and off, before then. He initially joined to access *The Sporting News* archive then got more involved with the Baseball Card committee. Although he has never attended a national SABR event that will change in July as he will be presenting at SABR 51 in Milwaukee.

In addition to the historical articles, he has also written about baseball. Matthew previously wrote Brew Crew Confidential, a history column for the *Shepherd Express* telling some of the franchise's lesser-known stories. And this year, his fourth book "Opening Day in Milwaukee" was published by McFarland and Company on the history of the Brewers through their home openers. He will talk about the book at the Spring Chapter Meeting and have books available for sale.

He has already started researching his next book about the so-called "Replacement Player" during spring training of 1995. "I find this to be a fascinating and too-often over-looked aspect of the strike, which is perhaps the most formative event in the game's last 30 years." This will be the topic of his presentation at SABR 51.

If Prigge could have a "time machine moment" and return in time to visit any baseball event, person or occurrence, what would he like to visit? "Probably the 1957 World Series, but maybe 1974's spring training, so I



could get the rest of my set signed.” Why would Matthew want to go back to the ’57 Series? “Why not? It would be a chance to watch some of the greatest ever and see a championship come to Milwaukee!”

And as we usually like to finish with, Matthew, are there final words of wisdom? Following [Sathcel Paige’s](#) Rules for the Good Life, “Don’t look back, something might be gaining on you.”

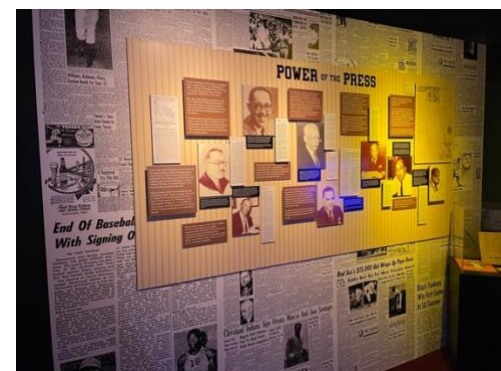


Tour of the Negro League Baseball Museum By Dennis D Degenhardt



Traveling from Arizona back to Wisconsin, I needed to change my route due to heavy rain. In doing so, I went through Kansas City. Since I have been trying to get to the Negro League Baseball Museum for several years, I knew I must visit the NLBM and it was fabulous. The 12 year-old in me came out as I wandered around in awe seeing pictures and information of players I knew by name. The Field of Legends was better than I could have imagined after listening to the NLBM’s president, Bob Kendrick’s Black Diamonds podcasts. And I am very proud of the pic with Bob when I thanked him for participating in our virtual meeting last year. We had a very interesting conversation and he is very gracious with museum guests.

Since I could only stay for three hours with a long trip to Milwaukee ahead of me, I know I need to return and hope to do so next year when the Brewers play the Royals in KC. For those who have been unable to visit, I have some pictures below to show you some of what you will see when the opportunity knocks.



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for member benefits and subscription amounts.

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SABR 51 in Milwaukee



As most SABR Members know, SABR 51 will be at the Palmer House in Chicago from July 5 to 9. But there may be a role for us in Milwaukee. SABR friends from all over the country have expressed interest in attending a game in Milwaukee before the convention. Some because they need to add our ballpark to their bucket lists and others because they enjoy Milwaukee and tailgating. Either way, we are looking to hold a SABR tailgate and ballgame on July 4th. We will be working with SABR to help us determine what the interest may be.

If it will be worthwhile to hold an event in Milwaukee, would you be interested in attending and meeting SABRen from all over the country? Also, would you be able to help?

Please let [Dennis](#) know of you interest, how you can help and questions you may have. Thanks!

To learn more about SABR 51, visit [here](#).



Notes from DDD



Since I have not received any updates on a possible joint chapter meeting at the Field of Dreams, I am assuming it is off for this year. If something develops, I'll let everyone know.

Couple of reminders. There will not be any meetings during the summer because everyone is busy, making it difficult getting attendance. One biggie that I cover elsewhere in the newsletter is our July 4 contest vs. the Cubs in conjunction with the SABR convention in Chicago that starts July 5. To date, I have heard from only one Keltner members who would be interested in the tailgate party. I am also unsure of national interest but still working on it.

Also, I am taking a hiatus during the summer, July and August, with the *Keltner Hot Corner*. If there is something going on, I will use the group email to stay in touch.

I'm always looking for ideas for meetings, the newsletter and to make our SABR experience better. So, if you have ideas, you know where to find me!

SABR Standards for Chapters

SABR is trying to set some standards for chapters with the minimum recommended at the Starting Lineup level (see chart). We are in good shape only needing to hold elections and have a Membership Lead to meet the benchmark.

We should have a set of by-laws that cover how the chapter operates for the long run. It can be a simple document approved by the membership and I propose a vote at the Fall Meeting this year as we implement the changes. There are a lot of questions to be answered.

Do we have the traditional officers, president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary and a board or fewer officers with and an Advisory Committee. Chapters use both structures.

Should the Membership Lead be appointed by the president (or board) or voted on by the membership? We should probably have a Newsletter Editor position as well and not assume it is the duty of the president although it could be. Like the Lead, should the Book Club Chair as well as chairs of any committees that could be formed in the future be appointed by the President (or board)? An Emeritus would be a lifetime position approved by the membership once.

What are the officer terms and election rotation so there is a consistency in the leadership while allowing opportunities for change. I would suggest holding the votes annually at the Fall Chapter Meeting starting this year.

Ken Keltner -
Milwaukee WI

Held Election	
In-Person Meeting	
Virtual Meeting	
One of Each Type of Meeting	
2022 Annual Report	
Has Membership Lead	
10 Members	
Starting Lineup Status	

By-Laws in Place	
Had SABRday Event	
Has a Newsletter	
Retained 80% membership	
Grew membership 5%	
Meets All-Star Recruitment & Retention goals	
All Star Status	

Held 4+ Meetings	
Chapter Research Project	
Retained 85% membership	
Grew membership 8%	
Meets MVP Recruitment & Retention goals	
Relations + Event	
MVP Status	

Retention Rate	79.05
5/31/22 Member count	100

Why am I doing this. Because we are a very good chapter with just some fine tuning needed. And it's not my chapter but ours. I would like to have some conversation on this so we can put together a proposal for the changes. I will try to discuss this topic at the Spring Chapter Meeting as well as reply to [Dennis](#) via email.

If anyone would like to volunteer to serve on the governance committee to prepare a recommendation for the chapter, I would appreciate that. Please contact [Dennis](#).



SABR Baseball Memories



Reminiscence (recalling pleasant memories of the past) is an effective intervention to help improve the quality-of-life for people dealing with Alzheimer's, dementia, chronic health issues, and loneliness. Since 2015, members of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR) have been developing and delivering baseball reminiscence programs in partnership with chapters of the Alzheimer's Association, Veterans Administration facilities, and local senior/memory care organizations.

What has been learned is talking about baseball often is a great way to get the people with memories issues to remember their early memories, playing or attending a game, a player or a World Series which gets them talking about baseball. A number of chapters in Texas, New York, Connecticut, and California have programs as well the Hemond Arizona Chapter where I learned on SABR Day about the program they are rolling out.

The reason I am mentioning this is we have been approached by Jacob Sawyers, the Dementia Care Specialist for Walworth County about partnering with them to develop a program. He told me that state law now mandates that every county have a Dementia Care Specialist so there is a great need for help. We have set a goal of having something to start with by summer.

Although we have a great deal to learn, this is something we need to do; using the game we love to help others struggling yet wanting to remember. Please take the time to learn more about SABR Baseball Memories [here](#). There are several reports on what SABR is doing and on baseball reminiscing, please read. Plus, some videos as well to watch and learn.

I am going to learn as much as possible to understand the how, what, when and where's. I will reach out to the other chapters as well. But I cannot nor should not do this alone. Who would like to join me on adding Wisconsin to the states helping the memory challenged by talking baseball? Do you understand the challenges of dementia or know someone who had it? PLEASE contact [Dennis](#) and let's make the difference together.



Schabowski's Super Stumpers

By Rick Schabowski
May Trivia

Rick continues on a roll with some interesting and challenging questions.

1. Name the other three HOF'ers who were on the field during Jackie Robinson's debut vs the Boston Braves on April 15, 1947.
2. Peter Alonso is the only New York Met to lead MLB in home runs in a season (53 in 2019). Who are the other three Mets who led the NL?
3. Who was the winning pitcher in the first MLB regular season game played in Mexico?
4. Who are the only two players in AL/NL history older than former Brewers Nelson Cruz to drive in six runs in a game?
5. Only one AL/NL team since the start of the 20th century opened a season with more consecutive home wins than this year's Rays (12-0). Which team is it?
6. Nolan Arenado's 10 Gold Glove Awards are tied for the most at third base in NL history. Who shares the lead with him?



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](#)
Keltner's Hot Corner

May 4, 2023

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By Adam McCalvy

April 18, 2023



Sick's Stadium/Photo Credit: Seattle Municipal Archives

SEATTLE -- Before Monday night, it had been seven years since the Brewers played a game in Seattle, which is a shame because no team has more Wisconsin connections than the Mariners.

Let's count the ways.

1. Seattle's early-season MVP is a cheesehead.

Waukesha's **Jarred Kelenic** is the highest Draft pick from Wisconsin by a significant margin, picked sixth overall by the Mets in 2018 and traded to the Mariners that December. His family is very close to **Craig Counsell's** family because Jarred's younger brother, JT, was a travel ball teammate of Counsell's youngest son, Jack, for the last five years. Jarred's and JT's father, Tom, coached those teams.

"My son has spent a lot of time with the Kelenics and my dad, who ended up traveling with my son a lot, has spent a lot of time with the Kelenics," Counsell said. "My dad watches all of Jarred's at-bats. He's always texting Tom about Jarred's at-bats. So, I know my dad is a big fan of Jarred Kelenic, absolutely."

After rocketing to the Major Leagues by 2021 and then really struggling, Kelenic is off to a hot start this season. Among players with at least 20 plate appearances for the week ending Sunday, Kelenic led AL hitters in batting average (.476), on-base percentage (.545), slugging percentage (1.211) and OPS (1.756).

Counsell would prefer to keep Kelenic in check through Wednesday, but in the long run he's rooting for continued success.

"This league is hard, man," Counsell said. "Every organization gets excited for their good, young players, and we want it to go perfect, right? It doesn't go the same for everybody. Nobody's journey is the same and nobody's timetable is the same. Jarred did really incredible things at a young age in the Minor Leagues. He was bound for success. It's just taken a little time, but he's still very young.

"It's not surprising to see him having success. He's going to have a great career."



The Brewers' Wisconsin-born player, infielder **Owen Miller** of Fredonia, Wis., has been hearing a lot from Kelenic. Miller is three years older so they didn't play together, but the fraternity of cheeseheads in the Majors is strong.

"He keeps calling after every one of his home runs, and I'll answer maybe every fourth call just to listen to him talk," Miller said. "I talked to him about his swing a lot last offseason because he worked with a hitting coach. In Spring Training I saw him and was like, 'Jeez, you're going to hit 30 home runs this year.' If somebody would do it, it would be him. From him struggling the last couple of years, it's good to see him doing well."

That's the bottom line for both Miller and Counsell. It's good for baseball in Wisconsin if players like Kelenic, the Dodgers' **Gavin Lux** (Kenosha), and the Blue Jays' **Daulton Varsho** (Marshfield) and **Danny Jansen**(Appleton) fare well.

"Probably Jarred and Gavin were two players who come to mind for me who put youth Wisconsin baseball on everyone's radar, and got people excited about it and brought

some attention to other kids, and probably inspired some other kids to go after the dream,” Counsell said. “You see kids drafted from Wisconsin in the first round and you go, ‘Oh, wow.’ They’re special, and it’s not that easy, but it’s still inspiring.”



2. Seattle’s skipper is a cheesehead, too.

Fun fact: **Scott Servais** is the only current MLB manager born in Wisconsin. Counsell is Wisconsin through and through, having grown up in Whitefish Bay while his father, John, worked in the Brewers’ front office. But Counsell was born in South Bend, Ind. Servais was born in La Crosse and went to Westby High School before college at Creighton.

“That was my team growing up; I was a Brewer fan. I’m looking forward to the series,” Servais said on Monday afternoon before he started rattling off from memory the entire roster from the early 1980s. “A lot of good memories going to Brewers games. County Stadium was really the only big-league park I had ever been in until I got to the big leagues. I didn’t know they could be better than County Stadium.”

Servais was 2 years old when the Brewers moved into County Stadium, which brings us to another Seattle connection. You are almost certainly aware that ...

3. The Brewers started here.

A Lowe’s Home Improvement store stands today at the corner of Rainier Ave. and S. McClellan St., the former site of Sick’s Stadium. The Seattle Pilots played there for one season before a bankruptcy judge ruled in the spring of 1970 that the franchise could be sold to a group led by **Bud Selig** and moved to Milwaukee.

Opening Day was only six days away.

“We’re Big League Again! Court OKs Sale of Pilots,” read the headline in the Milwaukee Journal. And the Sentinel: “Brewers To Open Tuesday.”

To subscribe to Brewers Beat, [visit this page](#) and mark "Brewers Beat" from our newsletter list. Make sure you're following the Brewers or that they're checked as your favorite team.

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SABR Analytics Certification

Have you explored the online, on-demand [SABR Analytics Certification](#) program yet?

The first two courses of the curriculum, offering professional development and learning opportunities for those interested in elevating their skills and knowledge relating to baseball analytics, are available now.

Whether you are a student or professional looking to set yourself apart as you break into the ultra-competitive baseball industry, or a broadcaster, coach, scout, or fan interested in gaining a better understanding of the present state and future of the game, the program was created with you in mind.

SABR members save \$55 on both available courses (and future courses), so we hope you'll check out these exciting opportunities:

Level One - Conversational Analytics and Critical Thinking in Baseball

- An introductory exploration of baseball data and analytics, including historical eras of analytics, descriptive vs. predictive data, metrics vs. statistics, key hitting, pitching, and fielding terms and practical applications of each, and player comparisons.
 - **Who can benefit?** Level One is geared towards anyone interested in gaining a fundamental and thorough understanding of baseball analytics including broadcasters and media personnel, amateur and professional players, coaches and scouts, and general baseball fans
 - **Instructor:** Jake Stone, Director of Operations & Player Development at Penn State University
 - [Level One Preview Video](#)
 - [Click here to register for Level One](#)



Level Two - Advanced Analytics in Baseball

- A deeper study of the key concepts in baseball analytics - hitting, pitching, fielding, and base running metrics, park and league adjustments, replacement levels and WAR, as well as projections and economics - helping to develop critical thinking.
 - **Who can benefit?** While Level One provides an introduction to many of the metrics seen and heard in baseball analytics circles, Level Two provides learners with an in-depth understanding of the theory behind these concepts, why they are calculated the way that they are, and how to best apply them considering their relative strengths and weaknesses. The goal of this course is to develop critical thinking for those preparing to apply this knowledge and analytical ability to their own research or seek a career in the baseball industry, while becoming equipped for the technical skills introduced in Level Three.
 - **Instructor:** Ben Jedlovec, Senior Director, Baseball Data Platform Product at Major League Baseball
 - [Level Two Preview Video](#)
 - [Click here to register for Level Two](#)



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Monthly Wisconsin Born SABR Bios

As mentioned last month when Owen Miller made the Brewers 2023 roster, he became the 11th Wisconsin born Brewer not the 12th as anticipated when he was traded to Milwaukee. The reason was questioning if J. P. Feyereisen was born in the Badger State. Baltimore SABR member Bill Mortell has helped me with researching Ancestry on all of my SABR Bios and I asked him to investigate. He discovered that Jonathan Paul Feyereisen was born on February 7, 1993, in Stillwater, Minnesota. In a text exchange with J.P., I learned that the reason he was born in Stillwater, 19 miles from River Falls, is because that is the hospital his mother's doctor used for births. Upon release mom and baby returned to River Falls to the only home J.P. has lived in. Now how we determine his status is even more complicated and will take some work to resolve.

With that change for the time being, of the 253 Wisconsin born major leaguers, 93 have SABB Bios written on them. So, you can get to know these guys better, we will include a SABR Bio monthly starting from the oldest with a completed bio to the most recent. Yes, that will take at least eight years to complete, and longer as new bios are finished. If you are interested in seeing the entire list of these players, or there is a Wisconsin born player that interests you and needs a SABR Bio, contact [Dennis](#).

This month's Wisconsin bio is Milwaukee's, Anton Falch, the 12th Wisconsinite to play in the big leagues and the 1,034th major leaguer. Keltner member Dennis Pajot wrote the bio of Falch who played five games with the 1884 Milwaukee Brewers of the Union Association.

Anton Falch

This article was written by [Dennis Pajot](#)

Anton Falch the baseball player is easy to overlook. Look him up in *Total Baseball* and your finger and eyes might easily pass over his 5 games in the 1884 Union Association. As with so many baseball players who filled in the gaps, Anton Falch's life was more than just one line of stats in a very large book. Falch's impact on Milwaukee was not on the baseball field, but at the most important intersection of 1890s Milwaukee.

Anton Falch was born in Milwaukee on December 4, 1860, to Bernhard, a harness maker by trade, and Margaretha Falch. In a city with numerous breweries, large and small, it is not surprising to find Anton's occupation in his early adult life was a cooper. Falch apparently had a bit of an unruly streak in him as a young man. The *Milwaukee Sentinel* of March 9, 1880, reported he was fined \$10 and costs for a fight with four others in the Milwaukee Garden while a dance was in progress. In 1882 it was reported Falch was booked for resisting an officer when he tried to prevent a person from being arrested in a saloon. As Anton was reported to be "a giant, weighing 220 pounds and 6 feet 6 inches tall," these incidents were probably something to behold. But as we shall see, Tony turned out more than okay, someone Milwaukee could be proud of.

Anton Falch played with the local semiprofessional Arctic Baseball Club in 1882. It was reported in the press that he was the only player around still catching without the aid of gloves or a mask. In June 1883 it was reported Falch left to catch for the Peoria Reds for \$125 and expenses paid. In July he was back in Milwaukee to again catch for the Arctics—the club that would claim the championship of Wisconsin for 1883. It is likely Falch was paid to catch for the Arctics, as a report in the *Milwaukee Journal* of June 30, 1883, reported the Arctics had engaged several professional players.

Falch reportedly signed with the Chicago Unions sometime after the 1883 season, but jumped his contract to sign with the Milwaukee Northwestern League club. He started the 1884 season on the Milwaukee Reserve team and signed with the regular team when the reserves disbanded in May. Falch was described as "perhaps the most promising catcher in the country. He is fearless, stands ready to face any pitcher, is a fair batsman, and his throwing to bases is superb." He would primarily be the change catcher behind [Cal Broughton](#), but also filled in the outfield and at third base. Anton showed improvement behind the plate and it was reported in late July he "now rarely drops the ball". Unfortunately, shortly afterward this he broke his finger and was out for a few weeks. His time out with the injury was not wasted, as Falch umpired games in the Northwestern League throughout the remainder of the season, being "very accurate in rendering judgment, there being no occasion for fault-finding by either nine."

The Northwestern League folded and Milwaukee joining the Union Association on September 13, 1884. Falch remained with the team, playing in five games and hitting .111, collecting only 2 hits. Anton was still primarily a catcher, although he appeared in more games in the outfield (2 games in left field, one in center and 2 behind

the plate), due to the "lame arm" of the regular outfielder. In one game Anton "won applause for a fine throw to the plate from left field." Falch even umpired in one game in the Union Association, filling in "creditably".

In addition to the Northwestern and Union clubs Falch played with at least two other teams in 1884. Before the Northwestern season and again after the Union Association season, he played some games with the local Arctics. Interestingly, on September 28 he and pitcher Charles "Lady" Baldwin were loaned to Dubuque for a game against the Tama City club. It was said the Tama Citys were the stronger of the two teams before the addition of the Milwaukee battery. Newspaper reports said up to \$1,300 changed hands on the result of the game. The contest ended in a 3 to 1 victory for Dubuque, and a Dubuque paper complimented both Baldwin and Falch.

In November 1884 Falch signed a \$600 contract for the upcoming season with the Milwaukee team, now in the Western League. He played poorly, having a hard time handling the swift pitching of the new pitcher. In a game against the St. Louis Browns, Falch was charged with nine passed balls. A new catcher went behind the plate and Falch saw action again in the outfield. In late May he was fined \$100 and suspended for 30 days for missing a train. While he was serving this suspension the Milwaukee club disbanded. Falch stayed in Milwaukee and played for semiprofessional clubs, including the Golden Eagles, Whites, and Bay View club. In August 1885 the Detroit National League club came to Milwaukee to play an exhibition game against a local team of semiprofessionals, and Falch caught for the locals. Falch also umpired some games of the Bay View club this season.

Baseball wasn't the only sport in which Anton Falch excelled. He was one of the best bowlers in the city. Bowling for the Aromatic Bowling Club he won three prizes at the Milwaukee Garden in December 1884. In January 1885 he rolled 768 in a match for Aromatic.

On September 2, 1885, Falch was appointed to the Milwaukee Police Department as a patrolman. On September 28 he married Bertha Knop and took up residence a block north of his parents at 299 15th Street (later the address was 1017 North 15 Street). The Anton Falchs moved to 326 15th in 1895, and then in 1900 to 300 North 21st (later 1018 North 21 Street), where Anton lived until he passed away 36 years later. Anton and Bertha had five children. (According to the 1905 Wisconsin state census the couple had five children living with them at the time: Ella, 19, Edwin, 16, Arthur, 14, Walter, 11, and Irene, 8).

Officer Falch's name appeared numerous times in the local newspapers' police columns. One arrest in November 1886 stands out. Falch arrested two railroad men at the corner of Market and Oneida (today's West Wells Street) and while walking them to the police station was jumped by four of their companions, one dealing "a savage blow in the mouth, felling him to the sidewalk." On the ground—still holding his prisoners—Officer Falch was kicked in the forehead by an assailant with "such force as to knock the entire heel off his boot." Falch let go of his prisoners and took on the man who first assaulted him. "The officer dealt him a blow in the face which felled him to the sidewalk, with a stream of blood flowing from his nose. As he again showed resistance, Falch gave him another blow in the face, knocking him down, while the others, becoming alarmed, fled." Officer Falch took his man, whose head and clothes were covered with blood, to the police station, where he was charged with resisting an officer. It was reported Officer Falch's upper lip was cut and badly swollen and he had two large lumps on his forehead. Amusingly, a man appeared at the station to furnish bail for the prisoner. Falch recognized him as another of his assailants and this man was also locked up. Each man was fined \$40 the next day. As they were unable to pay their fines the two were sent to the House of Correction for three months.

A far more serious incident was reported the next year. In the early morning of Sunday, September 26, 1887, Officer Falch was found unconscious at the foot of the stairway leading down to the barbershop at West Water Street (today's North Plankinton Ave.) and Grand Avenue (today's West Wisconsin Ave.). Falch was taken home and did not regain consciousness until late in the evening. He could not remember what happened, only that he had sat down on the railing to rest for a moment, and next found himself in his bed. It was thought he fell asleep for a moment and lost his balance. The fall was about 12 feet and the *Milwaukee Sentinel* reported "It was a miracle he was not killed." Falch had an ugly gash on the back of his head and a bruised face. After a week recovering from his injuries, he had a relapse and was reported in critical condition. However, within a short time Tony was back on the beat, arresting a clothing thief on 3rd and Grand Avenue in mid-October.

In spring 1891 Officer Falch "made a fine catch" by halting a team of horses attached to a load of brick on downtown's Third Street, but not before the bricks were scattered for six blocks. Tony was dragged quite a distance and had another narrow escape from death. Five years later Officer Falch grappled with a runaway team hauling a heavy truck wagon with one wheel off, barely missing a lot of people and grazing a streetcar.

After he brought the team to a stop, two hundred pedestrians cheered "a most dangerous act and bestowed lavish praise on the policeman."

As with most police officers, Tony had heartbreaking cases. In August 1895 a 7-year-old boy playing ball on the dock of the Milwaukee River fell into the water and drowned. Patrolman Falch recovered the boy's body and took it to the morgue.

Tony still loved baseball and attended games. In 1887 he was said to have "made a brilliant catch of a hard-hit ball" as a spectator.

In August 1890 the first of the Milwaukee Police-Fire baseball games was played at Athletic Park, home of the Milwaukee Brewers of the Western Association. Anton Falch was captain and catcher for the Police team. The "Run-me-in's" lost to the "Water-squirters," 27 to 20, with Falch "thumping the ball for a home run."

In another Police vs. Fire game in 1897, Falch again captained the Police squad, this time taking over first base. Tony had sprained his foot a week before the game, but decided to play. He should not have, and "played a poor game with his lame foot." His team lost to the firemen, 43 to 2, before about 4,000 people.

In 1894 a number of police officers equipped the drill hall in the Central Police Station on North Broadway as a gymnasium. At first there was no formal organization for the "brawny coppers" to punch the bag, spar, wrestle and "go through other forms of exercise," but in March 1895 the Milwaukee Police Athletic Association was formed and Anton Falch was a member of the Committee on Finance. This organization is still in existence today.

In an article in the November 3, 1895, *Milwaukee Sentinel* readers were informed of some police officers' duties. The paper told its readers Officer Falch was in charge of the corner at Grand Avenue and West Water Street (today's West Wisconsin Avenue and North Plankinton Avenue), where he had stood "swinging his club, controlling the movements of teams and passengers alike" for eight years. This post also looked after the Grand Avenue Bridge and was reported to be the most important corner in the city. A perhaps less "officially" important duty at this post was giving "bashful young fellows" (many from Chicago) directions to the residence of Reverend Hunsberger, who performed numerous marriages. Other tasks were providing directions to the Pabst brewery, answering if there were free drinks there, and pointing out where the great Third Ward fire had started. Anton Falch was a rather popular officer, collecting over 1,000 votes in a contest for the most popular policeman held by the *Milwaukee Journal* in 1899—but far behind Officer C.R. Sullivan's 27,429 and south side Officer Thaddeus Wendzinski's 15,209 votes. In 1904 Anton Falch was promoted to sergeant, He remained at that rank until he retired in 1917. After his retirement he worked for many years as a clerk for David Adler & Sons Co., a clothing store on Broadway and Buffalo Streets in Milwaukee's Third Ward.

Anton Falch died March 31, 1936. He was survived by his wife Bertha, who continued to live at 1018 North 21 Street, three children (one of his sons, Edwin, a Milwaukee fireman, had been killed fighting a fire in 1920) and one grandchild. Anton Falch is buried in Milwaukee's Union Cemetery.

Sources

Baseball-Reference.com

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Milwaukee County Marriage Certificate Index

Milwaukee Journal, 1883 – 1899, 1920, 1936

Milwaukee Sentinel, 1880 – 1897

St. Louis Globe-Democrat, February 10, 1884, April 6, 1885

Syracuse Herald, April 13, 1884

Wisconsin State Census (1905)

Full Name

Anton C. Falch

Born

December 4, 1860 at Milwaukee, WI (USA)

Died

March 31, 1936 at Wauwatosa, WI (USA)

Stats

[Baseball Reference](#)

[Retrosheet](#)

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Schabowski's Super Stumpers

May Answers:

1. Pee Wee Reese -Dodgers SS, Arky Vaughan PH for the Dodgers and Al Barlick (first base umpire)
2. Howard Johnson (38 in 1991), Daryl Strawberry (39 in 1988) and Dave Kingman (37 in 1982)
3. Fernando Valenzuela, SD (8/16/1996 vs. Mets)
4. Carlton Fisk and Barry Bonds.
5. 2009 Dodgers (13 straight)
6. Mike Schmidt

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BY: TIM CZUBA

For me, it started with the 1987 Canada Cup. Sure, there had been previous Canada Cups and other international tournaments, but without Cable TV, which I didn't get until 1985, seeing these international competitions with professional athletes was something I only read about in my youth. Just for this article, let's forget about the Soccer World Cup, ok?

U.S. Hockey was still in its infancy in fielding a competitive team, so I looked to our neighbors to the North and cheered for Team Canada, especially against the Soviet Union. Oh, and can we all agree up front that the Soviet Red Army Team were professionals? Thank you. Not only did I get to see my favorite NHLers come together on one team, but the absolute selling point was seeing Wayne Gretzky and the phenom play on the

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