

Society for American Baseball Research, Rogers Hornsby Chapter

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Seoul Series, Opening Day and a cloud over MLB figures in March meeting



March 2024 Newsletter

By Gilbert D. Martinez

The Seoul Series, Opening Day on Thursday, and the cloud over Shohei Ohtani and MLB were some of the topics we discussed at the March meeting on Sunday.

Fourteen members and guests gathered at Serranos in Southwest Austin to chew on Mexican food and speculations about Ohtani's interpreter, Ipeei Mizuhara, who was suddenly fired by the Los Angeles Dodgers soon after the conclusion of the two-game series in Seoul, South Korea. After an initial statement by Mizuhara that Ohtani had paid off the interpreter's gambling debts to the tune of \$4.5 million, Ohtani's representatives have since said the superstar was the victim of a massive theft. Late Friday, MLB announced that it has begun an official investigation into the matter, leading to lots of discussion online and at our meeting.

We also talked about Blake Snell signing with the San Francisco Giants. The National League Cy Young winner from last season was connected to the New York Yankees and Houston Astros, among others, before choosing a West Coast team.

This was the 208th consecutive month in which the chapter has met, extending a streak that began in 2006.

Norman Macht's Icebreaker

Longtime SABR member, former member of the SABR board of directors and author of [the definitive biography about Connie Mack](#), Norman Macht shared an icebreaker via email with me a few months ago. We

used it as a group activity at the start of our meeting. See how many of the given first names of Hall of Famers you know.

Hall of Fame Quiz

By Norman Macht

What's the given first name of these Hall of Famers?

Lefty Grove

Babe Ruth

Sparky Anderson

Yogi Berra

Chief Bender

Three-Finger Brown

Mickey Cochrane

Whitey Ford

Lefty Gomez

Goose Goslin

Goose Gossage

Gabby Hartnett

Whitey Herzog

Catfish Hunter

Chipper Jones

Pee Wee Reese

Red Schoendienst

Duke Snider

Arky Vaughan

Pie Traynor

Hack Wilson

Cy Young

Answers appear at the end of this newsletter.

News from SABR HQ

In a recent virtual meeting for chapter leaders, SABR announced it was doing something differently for the upcoming board of directors' election. Eight candidates for two open board spots will have a chance to introduce themselves to members during a virtual meeting on April 10. SABR said members should be on the lookout for an email soon with more information.

I also learned about an interesting exhibit at Camden County College in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, called "A League Apart: Showcasing the Legacy of Philadelphia Negro League Baseball." The exhibit runs through May 20. Here's the link: <https://aleagueapart.org/>

Predictatron and Awardatron

Chapter members should check their recent email for invitations to participate in Jim Baker's Predictatron, in which members are tasked with predicting division standings, playoff seeding and eventual World Series Champion. Can anyone knock off last year's successful prognosticators? Raeanne Martinez won the season-long contest, while Frank Rechterovic won the post-season contest. This year, divisions will be named for Raeanne and Brian Rogers, who won his division in the season-long contest. Please see Jim's email for instructions and the spreadsheet with which to submit your predictions. Entries are due by midnight (Central Time) on Thursday, March 28 (Opening Day).

Members should also look for the email from Ryan Pollack for the Awardatron Contest. Your goal is to predict who'll win the MVP, Cy Young, Rookie of the Year and Manager of the Year awards in both the AL and the NL

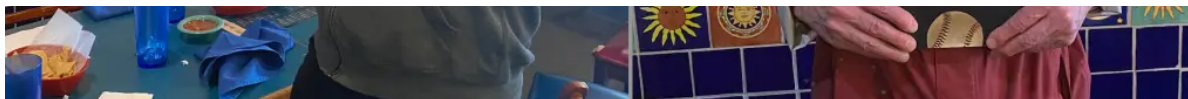
during the 2024 MLB season. Last year, Mike Cohen won the Lefty Grove Division and took the title with 94 out of a possible 120 points. Jerry Miller won the Frankie Frisch Division and finished runner-up overall with a still-impressive 89 points.

Entries are due by 9 p.m. (Central Time) Thursday, March 28. For directions and submission instructions, go to this link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeqmQxc9x0pkS8J-5ldYzlO7ehL4rkRqMp8WeE99gyGhVQEMw/viewform>

Starting Pitchers on Opening Day 2024 Quiz

Congratulations to Ryan Pollack (pictured below, left) and Cy Morong for acing the challenge to name the starting pitchers for Opening Day on Thursday. Ryan more than doubled the score of the second-place finisher with 19 points, followed by Cy with eight points. Ryan won “[The Long Ball: The Summer of '75 – Spaceman, Catfish, Charlie Hustle, and the Greatest World Series Ever Played](#)” by Tom Adelman. Cy won “[Cooperstown Confidential: Heroes, Rogues, and the Inside Story of the Baseball Hall of Fame](#)” by Zev Chafets.





The group noticed how many of baseball’s best pitchers are starting the season on the injured list, which made it especially challenging to name Opening Day starters.

Think you’re ready for Opening Day? Take a stab at the quiz below. The answers appear at the end of this newsletter.

Starting Pitchers on Opening Day 2024

By Gilbert D. Martinez

Information available as of March 23, 2024. Each blank is worth one (1) point. Maximum score is 28 points (because the Dodgers and Padres had not yet listed their starting pitchers as of March 23).

Brewers at Mets

_____ vs. _____

Angels at Orioles

_____ vs. _____

Braves at Phillies

_____ vs. _____

Nationals at Reds

_____ vs. _____

Giants at Padres

_____ vs. _____ TBA _____

Cardinals at Dodgers

_____ vs. _____ TBA _____

Blue Jays at Rays

_____ vs. _____

Twins at Royals

_____ vs. _____

Tigers at White Sox

_____ vs. _____

Pirates at Marlins

_____ vs. _____

Yankees at Astros

_____ vs. _____

Cubs at Rangers

_____ vs. _____

Guardians at Athletics

_____ vs. _____

Rockies at Diamondbacks

_____ vs. _____

Red Sox at Mariners

_____ vs. _____

Next Meeting on April 14

Our next meeting will be at 1 p.m. Sunday, April 14, at the home of Bailey Hall and her parents, Brian Hall and Nicole Bryan-Hall. SABR Dierker Chapter member and book author Mike Vance will be a special guest. A call for RSVPs will go out to the email list in early April.

Norman Macht's Icebreaker

Hall of Fame Quiz Answers

What's the given first name of these Hall of Famers?

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Babe Ruth (George)

Sparky Anderson (George)

Yogi Berra (Lawrence)

Chief Bender (Charles)

Three-Finger Brown (Mordecai)

Mickey Cochrane (Gordon)

Whitey Ford (Edward)

Lefty Gomez (Vernon)

Goose Goslin (Leon)

Goose Gossage (Richard)

Gabby Hartnett (Charles)

Whitey Herzog (Dorrel)

Catfish Hunter (James)

Chipper Jones (Larry)

Pee Wee Reese (Harold)

Red Schoendienst (Albert)

Duke Snider (Edwin)

Arky Vaughan (Joseph)

Pie Traynor (Harold)

Hack Wilson (Lewis)

Cy Young (Denton)

Starting Pitchers on Opening Day 2024 Answers

By Gilbert D. Martinez

Brewers at Mets: Peralta vs. Quintana

Angels at Orioles: Sandoval vs. Burnes

Braves at Phillies: Strider vs. Wheeler

Nationals at Reds: Gray vs. Montas

Giants at Padres: Webb vs. TBA

Cardinals at Dodgers: Mikolas vs. TBA

Blue Jays at Rays: Berrios vs. Eflin

Twins at Royals: Lopez vs. Ragans

Tigers at White Sox: Skubal vs. Crochet

Pirates at Marlins: Keller vs. Luzardo

Yankees at Astros: Cortes vs. Valdez

Cubs at Rangers: Steele vs. Eovaldi

Guardians at Athletics: Bieber vs. Wood

Rockies at Diamondbacks: Freeland vs. Gallen

Red Sox at Mariners: Bello vs. Castillo



Gilbert Martinez / March 25, 2024 / Hornsby News /

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