



EMIL ROTHE CHICAGO CHAPTER

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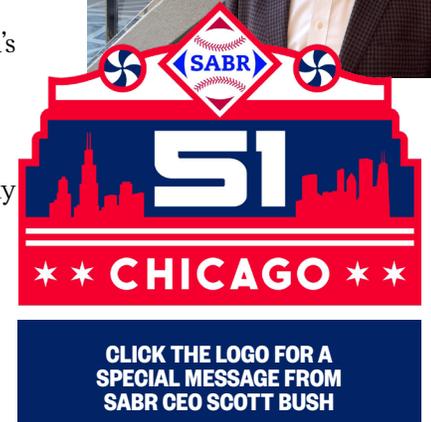
Above: On Friday, August 19, 2022, SABR Board President Mark Armour enjoyed meeting several Emil Rothe chapter members at Oriole Park at Camden Yards. They watched the Baltimore Orioles defeat the Boston Red Sox, 15-10.

CHICAGO TO HOST SABR CONVENTION IN 2023

SAVE THE DATE: JULY 5-9, 2023



Save the date! SABR will be returning to Chicago for our 51st annual convention on July 5-9, 2023, at the Palmer House Hilton hotel in downtown Chicago, Illinois. Registration information for SABR 51 and our special hotel room block will be available on SABR's website in early 2023.



CLICK THE LOGO FOR A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM SABR CEO SCOTT BUSH

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The [Palmer House Hilton](#) sits in the heart of the Chicago Loop, conveniently located within walking distance from the famous lakefront, Chicago River, Michigan Avenue, and DuSable Lake Shore Drive with Grant Park, Millennium Park, the Art Institute as well as top restaurants, bars, theater, and music venues. Chicago is one of the most visited and historic cities in baseball, home of the White Sox and Cubs, founding teams of the National League and American League, and with a rich Negro Leagues history.

This will be SABR's fifth convention held in the Windy City, and the first since [SABR 45](#) in 2015. Learn more about SABR's convention history by clicking [here](#).

For more information on the SABR convention, visit [SABR.org/convention](#).





AMBIDEXTROUS PITCHER HURLS FOR EMPIRE STATE AS SLAMMERS POUND THE GREYS



BY: TIM CZUBA

The latest group outing for the Emil Rothe chapter took place on July 23rd as the Joliet Slammers took on the Empire State Greys on a mid-summer, rather muggy night at Duly Field in Joliet. The Slammers scored early and often as they pounded the woeful Greys, 13-0.

At the time of the contest, the Greys carried an almost unbelievable record of 3-56. However, certain consideration needs to be given to this Frontier League franchise playing the whole season as a road team with no home field this year. Yet, it was the poor pitching and a poor offensive approach that doomed the team in this contest.

The Slammers, a much better team than last year at this time, pounded out a season high sixteen hits and jumped on Greys starter Johsson Arias early, scoring six runs in the first and



Above: Members from SABR's Emil Rothe and Central Illinois chapters watched the Joliet Slammers demolish the Empire State Greys on July 23, 2022. Bottom row (left to right) - John Racanelli, Sean Kolodziej, Bill Pearch and Tim Czuba. Top row (left to right) - David Malamut, Ryan VanDerKarr and Jennifer VanDerKarr.

chasing him after 1 1/3 innings with four in the second. There were many offensive heroes for Joliet with three players finishing with three hits each. First baseman Brylie Ware drove in four with a double and two singles. Paxton Wallace and Lane Baremore each homered in the rout with three RBI.

Joliet starter Cole Cook (7-4) gave up only a bleeder down the first base line in the top of the third for the only hit he surrendered in seven solid innings. The Greys hitters frankly looked overmatched against Cook. Empire State only managed a total of two hits for the game as it looked to this observer as they were more worried about launch angle as opposed to stringing together some hits to rally.

The Slammers play at beautiful Duly Field, originally Silver Cross Field, and the park, in my opinion, is the nicest of all the minor league parks in the Chicago area. The wrought Iron gates welcomes the fan to a park with a classic, old-time feel. The grandstand is done similarly, giving the fan a wonderful game day experience.

As nice as Duly Field is, it is in need of some serious upkeep. The City of Joliet has neglected the one-time cornerstone of

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 -



CLICK HERE TO PLAY

**CAN YOU NAME THE
LAST 5 SINGLE-SEASON
RBI LEADERS FOR
EACH MLB FRANCHISE?**



MY TRIP TO COOPERSTOWN TO SEE MINNIE MIÑOSO INDUCTED



BY: RICHARD SMILEY

On a sunny and humid July weekend, I traveled to Cooperstown, New York to celebrate Minnie Miñoso's induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame. I think many of you have visited Cooperstown, but some of you haven't and some of have gone—but not during induction weekend. In this article I will provide some flavor of Cooperstown for those who have never been there, but will focus more specifically on my personal experience of what being there is like during induction weekend.

Above: Minnie Miñoso, pictured here at Comiskey Park in 1960, played 12 seasons a member of the Chicago White Sox. (Photo: Chicago Tribune)

Cooperstown is a small village located amidst rolling hills on the Southern tip of Otsego Lake in central New York State. The lake serves as the source of the Susquehanna River and the region was the inspiration for the series of "Leatherstocking" novels written in the 1800s by James Fenimore Cooper, the most famous of which was *The Last of the Mohicans*. The normal population of the village is 2,000, but during induction weekend it grows in multiples—estimates of this year's crowd settled at 35,000.

Clearly with crowds that large, not everyone can have lodgings in or near Cooperstown. The best hotel in town is reserved for the visiting Hall of Famers and inductees and other hotels ramp up their prices. Even the motels circling Otsego Lake become pricey. The solution for many is to stay in the low-cost hotels near Albany which is located 60 miles to the northeast. This is the route I took when I attended the induction ceremony in 2014 (Frank Thomas, Greg Maddux, Tom Glavine, Tony La Russa, Bobby Cox and Joe Torre) and attempted to attend the induction ceremony in 2019 (Harold Baines and some guy who closed games for the Yankees). In each case I rented a car made my way to Cooperstown via NY Route 20 which climbs its way through sleepy towns.

This strategy worked fine in 2014 when everything seemed to go as planned—I found parking when I needed to and made it to Doubleday Field just in time to see Roger Angell receive the J.G.

— CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 —

GET PUBLISHED!

Let SABR's Emil Rothe Chicago Chapter help publish your baseball research. We are looking for new articles to share in the Chapter's newsletter and our social media outlets. Submit your articles to Bill Pearch, newsletter editor, via email at wcpearch@comcast.net for inclusion in an upcoming edition.



SOME ARTWORK PROVIDED BY:

Vecteezy



FIELD OF DREAMS MINOR LEAGUE GAME



BY: RYAN VAN DER KARR

In August of 2021 MLB held a game on a newly constructed stadium built next to the Field of Dreams movie site. It was a huge success and the league quickly announced a follow-up game to be held in 2022 with an added prelude of a minor league game to be held a couple days in advance.

On Tuesday, August 9, 2022 the first minor league baseball game was held at the new Field of Dreams stadium. The game featured the only two Midwest League teams currently based in Iowa: the Quad Cities River Bandits and the Cedar Rapids Kernels. As an additional way to honor the history and nostalgia called upon in the Field of Dreams, the Quad Cities River Bandits would play as the Davenport Blue Sox who were the predecessors of the current team and the moniker they used during two different eras in three different leagues (1913-16 in the Three-I League, 1929-33 in the Mississippi Valley League and 1934-37 in the Western League). The Cedar Rapids Kernels would call back to their history as the Cedar Rapids Bunnies as the team was called from 1896-99 in the Western Association, 1914 in the Central Association and 1922-32 in the Mississippi Valley League. Both teams wore corresponding jerseys that reflected the earlier incarnations of the team.

Fans parked across the street and went through the movie site where there was a plethora of pre-game activities. There were people exploring the site and taking photos. There were cornhole (bags) games set up around the field. There was a corn launcher that used a slingshot to launch ears of corn and try to hit targets



Top: The Quad Cities River Bandits, donning the uniforms of the Davenport Blue Sox, approach the playing field through the corn.
Above: Jennifer VanDerKarr and Ryan VanDerKarr soak in the atmosphere. (Photos: Ryan VanDerKarr)

that were set up in the corn field. There were plenty of souvenir and concession stands including one that was handing out free ears of corn. TV crews were set up in the rightfield foul area with numerous local sports reporters interviewing people and going in and out of the corn. Hundreds of people were playing catch on the field and some were playing with "ghost players" who were dressed in uniforms similar to those in the movie.

When you were done enjoying the movie site, it was time to head to the stadium for the game. The only way for fans to access the field was through the outfield corn of the original Field of Dreams movie site. Fans exited the corn in centerfield as if they were the ghosts in the movie and then followed a path that

– CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 –



RED BARBER: THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF A BROADCASTING LEGEND



BY: JUDITH R. HILTNER AND JAMES R. WALKER

Enjoy an excerpt from *Red Barber: The Life and Legacy of a Broadcasting Legend* by Judith R. Hiltner and James R. Walker, University of Nebraska Press, 2022

Red Barber honored the contributions of Graham McNamee, Ted Husing, Bill Munday, and others in his books and articles. For him these were the true pioneers of sports broadcasting; he stood on the shoulders of these giants. But for the generations of baseball broadcasters that followed the Old Redhead, Barber was the trailblazer. In some respects, it is difficult for twenty-first-century baseball fans to recognize why Barber's style of broadcasting was so influential in his time: he was the first to exercise habits for calling a game that we assume had always been standard practice. The strongest and clearest statement of his influence on his profession comes from Pat Hughes, the longtime radio voice of the Chicago Cubs and creator of *Baseball Voices*, an impressive CD series celebrating Hall of Fame announcers. For Hughes, Barber "is simply the most influential play-by-play man in the history of our country, and nobody else is even close."

Ernie Harwell, the Detroit Tigers' announcing legend, agreed with Hughes's assessment: "Probably more than any other announcer, we learned from him [Barber], every one of us."

Hughes summarized what he saw as Red's unique and pioneering contributions to the professionalizing of baseball broadcasting: "[It was] just the way he approached the job: the preparation, the detailed description of what was transpiring on the field in front of him, the background knowledge, the filling in between pitches. Nobody had ever done that before he did. The allowance of letting the crowd roar after a big play instead of trying to shout over it." In his CD on Barber, Hughes traced the route by which Red's disciplined habits of professional practice were passed on to the generations of baseball broadcasters who followed him, starting with Vin Scully. Barber mentored Scully, and Scully influenced the next generation: "Since so many current baseball announcers have learned from Vinny, fans in many towns still hear a trace of Red Barber every single baseball day."

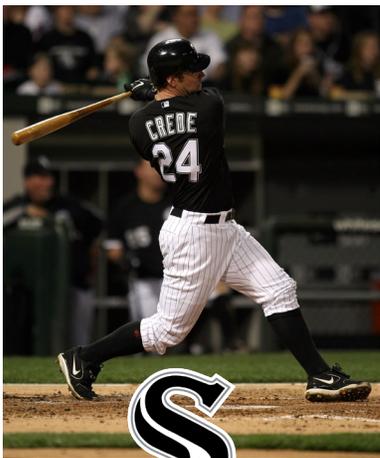
Vin Scully, the baseball broadcaster rated the best by many and the one with the longest run, acknowledges the exclusive, career-shaping influence of Barber upon his success by claiming Red as his "father." In a recorded message for the one hundredth anniversary celebration of Barber's birth in Columbus, Mississippi, in 2008, Scully told the crowd honoring the Old Redhead: "The simplest way for me to describe my relationship with the great Red Barber is to say that he was like a father to

— CONTINUED ON PAGE 14 —



RANDOM TANDEM

JOE CREDE & ARAMIS RAMIREZ



The last White Sox third baseman to post at least 30 doubles, 30 home runs, and exactly 93 singles was 28-year-old Joe Crede in 2006.

The last Cubs third baseman to post at least 30 doubles, 30 home runs, and exactly 93 singles was 28-year-old Aramis Ramirez in 2006.

**Have a sweet Chicago Random Tandem?
Send it to j.racanelli@hotmail.com!**

TELL YOUR BASEBALL STORY

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 wpearch@comcast.net to schedule a brief interview.



Top: By the third inning, the Joliet Slammers seized control of the game. / Below: The main entrance to Duly Health and Care Field. (Photos: Bill Pearch)

AMBIDEXTROUS PITCHER (CONT.)

its downtown renaissance and needs to thoroughly clean this beautiful ballpark and address the cosmetic structural issues that plagues it as well. The other tenants of Duly Field, the University of St. Francis and the IHSA State Baseball Tournament Finals, not to mention travel league tournaments, would also benefit from Joliet giving one of its true structural treasures some much needed love.

The ultimate highlight of the game was Mizuki Akatsuka, Empire State's second pitcher, who is ambidextrous. He came in to pitch with one out in the second and game already at 10-0 Slammers. As he began to warm, Akatsuka threw right handed. I looked down, took a drink of my beer and as I looked up again I noticed Akatsuka threw his last two warm up pitches lefthanded. Obviously, that was a first for me when at a live ballgame. Most of Joliet's line up swung righthanded, so Akatsuka mostly threw righty, but he did switch when each of the two lefties for the Slammers stepped up to the plate. Either way, Akatsuka was solid, throwing 4 2/3 innings, giving up two runs on five hits.

The Frontier League season is now over, but next year, might I suggest getting out to a Joliet Slammers game or two. Quality independent league baseball (equivalent to High-A ball), a nice stadium, reasonable ticket prices, free parking and serving a really good hot dog makes for a great fan experience. I know the group enjoyed the game.



SABR'S DIGITAL LIBRARY

¡ARRIBA! THE HEROIC LIFE OF ROBERTO CLEMENTE

The year 2022 marks the 50th anniversary year of Roberto Clemente's final year in major-league baseball. ¡Arriba! The Heroic Life of Roberto Clemente celebrates his life and his baseball career.

The first universally acknowledged Latino inductee into the National Baseball Hall of Fame, Clemente played every one of his 18 seasons for the Pittsburgh Pirates. He became the 11th player to reach the 3,000-hit milestone, finishing his final season by hitting number 3000 on the season's last day. Named to 15 All-Star Game squads, Clemente also won 12 Gold Gloves, four batting titles, and was the National League's Most Valuable Player in 1966. He was twice a World Series champion, winning with the Pirates in both 1960 and 1971.

But off the baseball diamond, Clemente was known for his charitable work. He lost his life on the final day of 1972 while working to provide relief for victims of an earthquake in Nicaragua. He was aboard a plane loaded with relief supplies — the fourth such plane he had helped to stock — and had decided to accompany the flight personally to ensure the supplies were reaching those in need of aid and not merely falling into the hands of profiteers. The plane crashed immediately after takeoff from Puerto Rico, a tragic loss for baseball and the world.

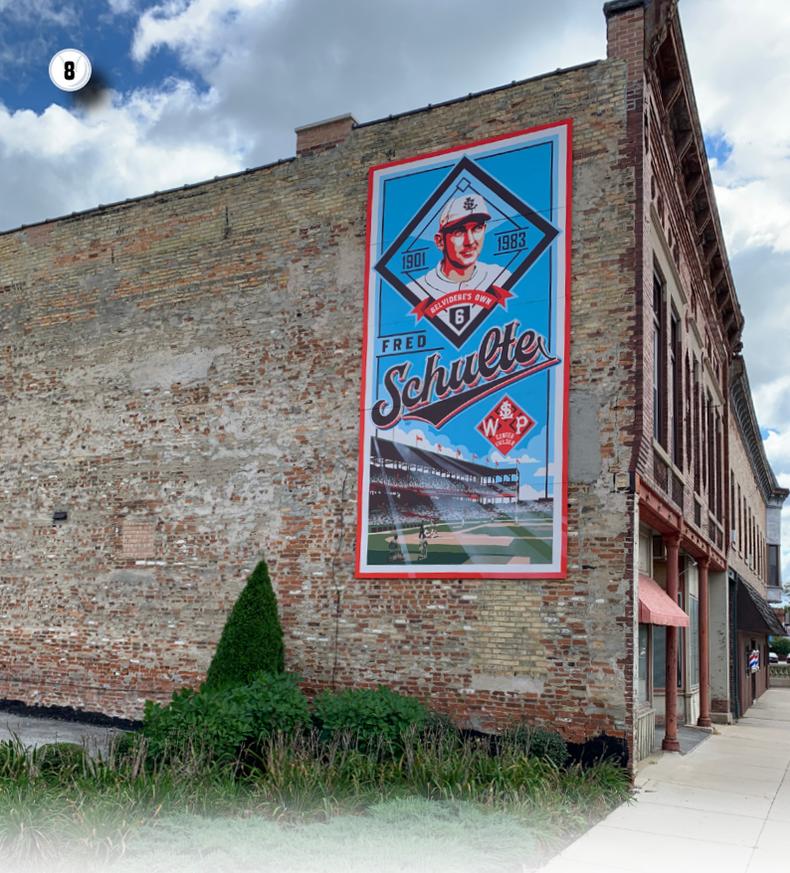
Contributors include: Malcolm Allen, Jeff Barto, Gary Belleville, John Blankstein, Steve Bratkovich, Thomas J. Brown Jr., Frederick C. Bush, Richard Cuicchi, Mark Davis, Peter Dreier, Robert Elias, Howard Elson, James Forr, John Fredland, Steve Ginader, Duke Goldman, Vince Guerrieri, Andrew Harner, Jane S. Hewitt, Thomas E. Kern, Justin Krueger, Alex Kukura, Kevin Larkin, Joe Leisek, Len Levin, Norman L. Macht, Michael Marsh, Emmanuel Mehr, Kellen Nielson, Bill Nowlin, Tony S. Oliver, Tim Otto, Zac Petrillo, Richard J. Puerzer, Carl Riechers, Juan Jose Rodriguez, Benjamin Sabin, Mark Simon, Glen Sparks, Wayne Strumpfer, Stew Thornley, Thomas E. Van Hyning, Steven C. Weiner, and Gregory H. Wolf.

WE ARE, WE CAN, WE WILL: THE 1992 WORLD CHAMPION TORONTO BLUE JAYS

The 1992 Toronto Blue Jays will always be remembered as the first World Series-winning club based outside the United States and the first from Canada. Before that memorable season, the Blue Jays were respected as consistent contenders, the team never seemed able to win a championship. After winning the division in 1991, the 1992 club confidently adopted "We Are, We Can, We Will" as their team motto, indicative of their unshakable belief that they were capable of winning the American League pennant and then the World Series.

We Are, We Can, We Will features biographies of every player who played for the 1992 Toronto Blue Jays including Hall of Famers Dave Winfield, Jack Morris, and Roberto Alomar. Manager Cito Gaston, Hall of Fame general manager Pat Gillick, and radio broadcaster Tom Cheek are also included, as well as a "ballpark biography" of SkyDome, Toronto's home ballpark. Ten reports describe significant games from the 1992 season illustrating Toronto's championship journey from Opening Day to the last game of the World Series. The book concludes with an essay on the Blue Jays celebratory visits to Washington, DC, and Ottawa, and an article on how team management deftly reshaped the roster in the winter to prepare Toronto for another successful championship drive in 1993.

Contributors include: Sean Addis, Malcolm Allen, Mark Armour, Rich Bogovich, Thomas J. Brown Jr., Frederick C. Bush, Warren Campbell, Alan Cohen, Rory Costello, Joe Cox, Mark Davis, F. Timothy Deeth, Brian Frank, David Fuller, Adrian Fung, J.P. Garrett, Sam Gazdzia, Tim Hannan, Tom Hawthorn, Paul Hofmann, Bob Hurte, Chris Jones, John Kennedy, Norm King, Tara Krieger, Justin Krueger, Bob LeMoine, Len Levin, Dan Levitt, Nick Malian, Joe Marren, Les Masterson, David Matchett, Bill Nowlin, Carl Riechers, Joel Rippel, Harry Schoger, Paul Sinclair, Steve Sisto, Tim Sitar, David E. Skelton, Doug Skipper, Curt Smith, Mark S. Sternman, Allen Tait, Joe Thompson, Stew Thornley, Alfonso Tusa, Eric Vickrey, David Vincent, Joseph Wanch, and Bob Webster.



FRED SCHULTE BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS



This mural of Fred Schulte is located north of the Kishwaukee River in downtown Belvidere, Illinois. ([42.259741, -88.843306](https://www.google.com/maps/place/42.259741,-88.843306)) / *Photo: Abbey Botkin*

On Thursday, July 21, 2022, the SABR Baseball Map, an exciting and powerful tool to help you plan baseball travel this summer and beyond, officially launched. Have you tried it yet?

If you are interested in joining the Landmarks Committee and assisting with the project, contact John Racanelli.

Do you go out of your way to visit old ballparks, historical markers, statues or gravesites? We would love to hear about it! Send us your experiences and photos to jracanelli@hotmail.com

CATCHING UP WITH SABR CHICAGO

Did you miss our chapter's most recent virtual session? No problem. You can watch it on SABR's YouTube channel.

SABR Chicago welcomed two authors to discuss their recent books.

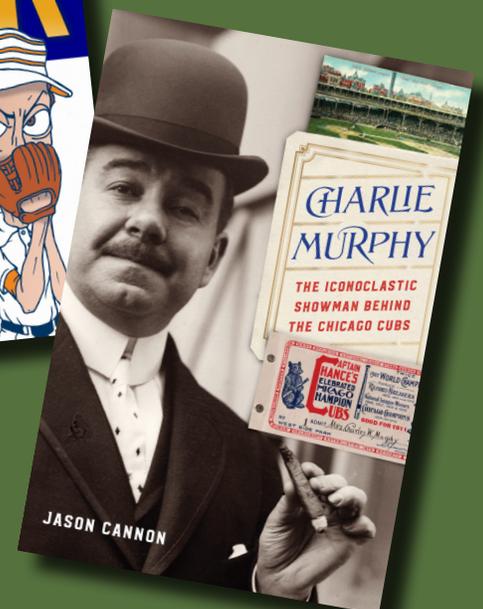
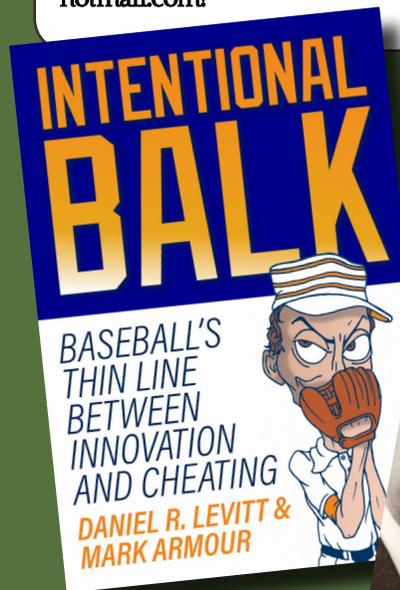
Mark Armour

"Intentional Balk: Baseball's Thin Line Between Innovation and Cheating," co-written with Dan Levitt

Jason Cannon

"Charlie Murphy: The Iconoclastic Showman Behind the Chicago Cubs"

Recorded September 10, 2022



CLICK TO
WATCH

FIELD OF DREAMS (CONT.)



widened the closer you got to the stadium. There were cutouts of several of the MLB players that would be playing in the Thursday MLB game lining the path. The path led to the outfield corn which you then followed around to the grandstands set up along the first and third base lines (there were no seats in the outfield, only corn.)

Preceding the game the award for 2021 New Ballpark of the Year was awarded for the Field of Dreams with plaques presented on the field. Six-year-old Cade McGovern from Dubuque who spent more than 200 nights as a patient at UI Stead Family Children's Hospital was joined on the mound by his family and threw out a first pitch to Hall of Famer Frank Thomas. After a wonderful rendition of The Star-Spangled Banner by Iowa natives Carolyn Haugland and Emily Gerdtis, it was time to play ball!

The Blue Sox took the field first as the home team and Chandler Champlain received the honor of throwing the first minor league pitch in history at the stadium, a strike! Chandler struck out the first two he faced, gave up two singles (Aaron Sabato of the Bunnies goes in the record books as the first hit at the stadium) and then got his third strikeout to end the inning. They switched sides and the Bunnies took the field. The Blue Sox leadoff hitter Tyler Tolbert singled and after a fly out stole second for the first steal recorded on site. As a bonus note, the game was held up for Tyler to get a new belt as he broke his belt going head-first into second base. Pitcher Aaron Rozek recorded his first strikeout for the second out of the inning but then gave up a 2-run homer to Juan Carlos Negret, another first for the minor leaguers at the stadium and also more than would be hit at the MLB game two night hence. A walk and a groundout would end the inning with the Blue Sox up, 2-0.

After a scoreless inning and a half, the Blue Sox were back at it with a leadoff home run, a fielding error and a run scoring double. A mound visit settled Rozek down and he got the next man out but after a walk and a single Aaron's day was done. Derek Molina came in to relieve Rozek and after a sacrifice fly and a fly out (both to center field) the inning was over but the Bunnies trailed, 5-0. The Blue Sox expanded their lead to 7-0 with a double, a steal of third and a single in the sixth inning. After squandering doubles of their own in the third and sixth innings, the Bunnies finally broke through in the top of the seventh. A leadoff double followed by a single, strikeout, another single and a sac fly lead to two runs and an end to the shutout. The game headed into the seventh inning stretch at 7-2 with the Blue Sox in the lead and that is where it would ultimately end with the Bunnies only able to draw a walk after the seventh inning.

In a game that was technically a home game for the Quad City River Bandits, despite being played at the neutral site in Dyersville, the River Bandits didn't perform like their last place record would indicate nor did the Kernels play up to their first place standards. The Kernels hitters had difficulty stringing together hits against a pitching staff with the second worst ERA in the league (over 5.00) while the pitchers who have a league best sub-3.50 ERA allowed the Quad Cities hitters to put pressure on all evening.

Regardless of the outcome, both teams were excited to play on the field and in this first-of-its-kind game at the Field of Dreams.

TOP TEN: MOST CAREER AT-BATS FOR CHICAGO PLAYERS WITH 200 OR LESS STRIKEOUTS WITH CLUB

RANK	PLAYER	AT-BATS	SO	TEAM
1	NELLIE FOX	8,486	192	WHITE SOX
2	BILL BUCKNER	3,788	159	CUBS
3	RIGGS STEPHENSON	3,474	176	CUBS
4	EARL SHEELY	3,448	160	WHITE SOX
5	BILL LANGE	3,202	123	COLTS/ORPHANS
6	JACKIE HAYES	3,103	188	WHITE SOX
7	MAX FLACK	3,005	143	CUBS
8	GEORGE GORE	2,963	176	WHITE STOCKINGS
9	CHARLIE HOLLOCHER	2,936	94	CUBS
10	WALT WILMOT	2,911	139	COLTS

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.

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Let SABR's Emil Rothe Chicago Chapter help publish your baseball research. We are looking for new articles to share in the Chapter's newsletter and our social media outlets. Submit your articles to Bill Pearch, newsletter editor, via email at wpearch@comcast.net for inclusion in an upcoming edition.

LET'S GET SOCIAL!



COOPERSTOWN TRIP (CONT.)

Taylor Spink Award for excellence in baseball writing. The 2019 induction was more challenging. I met up with R.J. Lesch and with whom I shared a room and the driving duties. We had a mostly successful Saturday, seeing the Spink ceremony and the parade of Hall of Famers, but parking challenges arose (“What do we do with the car?”) and the return trip in a heavy rainstorm resulted in a flat tire on the car I rented. Not a problem—we could use R.J.’s car on Sunday.

But that didn’t go as planned. Following an early breakfast and a stock up of ice and beverages at the Stewart’s Shop in Duanesburg, we started the climb on Route 20. About 10 minutes into the drive R.J. started hearing funny sounds from the car and we pulled off the road to check it out. Nothing seemed to be wrong with the car but being cautious we opted to turn around and have someone look at it (we thought we had seen a car shop a little earlier in the drive). About five minutes into the return drive, we were shocked when the left front tire flew off the car and landed on the side of the road. R.J. adeptly steered the car to the side of the road and got it stopped. Luckily, we were on a straightaway section that allowed approaching cars to see us from a good distance away. After a two-hour wait for a tow to Albany, it was clear that our plans to see Harold inducted would have to be scrapped as the underside of the car was a total wreck. The source of the troubles? All of the lug nuts had come loose on the car and the front left one was the first to go.

With that backstory in mind, I opted not to drive to Cooperstown this year and instead arranged to travel there through the Hall of Fame’s preferred tour vendor, Sports Travel and Tours, which featured packages that ... stayed in hotels near Albany and bussed people to Cooperstown. In my opinion it turned out to be a good deal. For a couple hundred dollars more than what it would have cost if I arranged the trip myself, I didn’t have to worry about driving, I didn’t have to worry about what to do with a car, I didn’t have to worry about seating arrangements for the induction ceremony and could enjoy being dropped off right on Main Street upon entry into town.

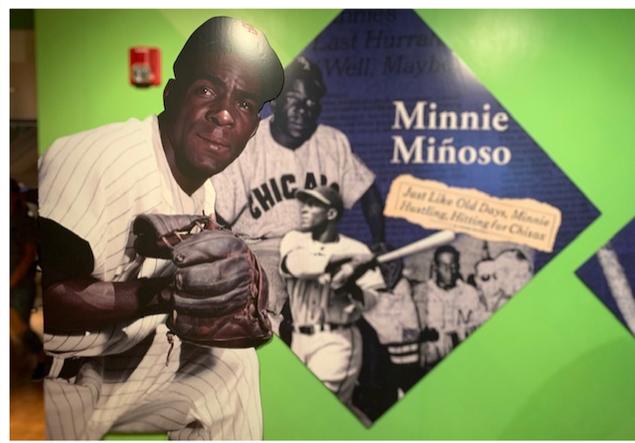
The actual trip to Cooperstown on Saturday did produce an echo of my previous excursion when the bus that I was on with about 40 other fellow travelers was seemingly unable to climb the hills on Route 20. After about 10 minutes on that road, near where R.J. and I had flamed out, we turned around, returned to Duanesburg, and got off while the driver attempted to “reboot” the bus.

PASTIME PASSAGES

“Minnie Miñoso is to Latin ballplayers what Jackie Robinson is to black ballplayers. Minnie is the one who made it possible for all us Latins. He was the first Latin player to become a superstar.”

— Orlando Cepeda

Do you have a favorite baseball-related quote?
Send it to John Racanelli via email at jracanelli@hotmail.com.



Top: Stuck on NY Route 20.

*Bottom: Minnie Miñoso Hall of Fame Display.
(Photos: Richard Smiley)*

Our second attempt up the hill produced no more success, so we scuttled the trip, drove back to company’s garage in Albany, and changed busses. That bus was fine, and we made it into Cooperstown a little after 11 a.m.

The first stop was the museum itself, the Baseball Hall of Fame. Having been there before at much less crowded times (i. e., non-induction weekends) I opted to not spend too much time in there but I did make sure to check out the exhibit on the new inductees.

I also made sure to check out the plaque room and snapped a photo of Luke Appling’s entry. R.J. and I are working on a bio of Luke, so I made sure to stop by that part of the room.

From the HOF, I moved on to the autograph circuit. As with big sports memorabilia shows, with many Hall of Famers in town for the ceremony, opportunities exist for attendees to get autographs from and photos with their heroes ... for a price. Normally I don’t partake in these activities (my interests are more focused on scorecards, baseball cards, and books). But given that I was in the midst of Howard Bryant’s excellent biography of Rickey Henderson, I opted to try this out and waited outside in a numbered line to enter a small hotel and get my moment with the star. In addition to an autograph, he graciously posed for a photo with me.



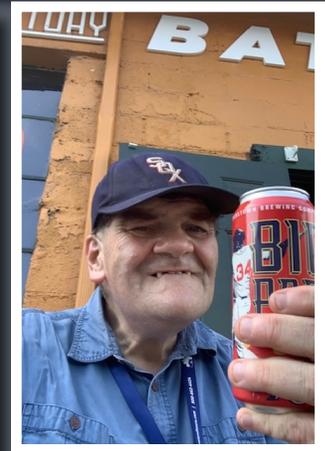
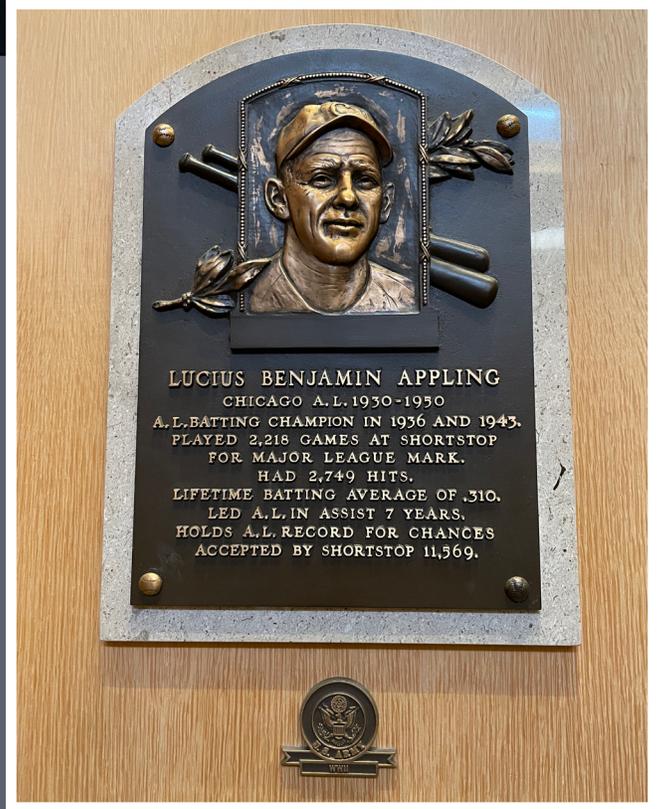
COOPERSTOWN TRIP (CONT.)

After meeting Rickey, I moved on to the real Cooperstown challenge—getting something to eat or drink without spending half an hour doing so. Cooperstown is not really made for huge crowds, so I found myself making do—I secured some water at a store that dealt in vintage jerseys and found a shop off of Main Street that served ice cream and offered an opportunity to sit for a while. Later I was able to go to the batting cages near Doubleday Field and get a cold Big Papi Pilsner.

In between the search for cold beverages, I went in and out of the various stores on Main Street dealing in baseball cards, jerseys, sports memorabilia, books, etc. Among the highlights of this portion of the trip was the pop-up market called the Cooperstown Card Show. Featuring vintage cards and memorabilia, the show had tables and tables of dealers displaying collections not seen in the typical Cooperstown shops. The highlight was a collection of the only known cards in the 1913 Tuxedo Tobacco Set.

I also stopped in Willis Monie Books, a used bookstore with a great collection of books on baseball. There I obtained an autographed first-edition copy of Fred Lieb's 1944 team history of the St. Louis Cardinals published by the Putnam Press as part of a series.

With most activity in Cooperstown being focused in a four-block stretch of town, it's not too surprising to run across familiar faces over the course of the day. This year I ran across Don Zminda while returning from the parade and also came across Cubs



Top: Doubleday Field. / Above: Luke Appling's Hall of Fame Plaque. / Bottom (left): The Two Rickeys. / Bottom (right): It's Papi Time! (Photos: Richard Smiley)



COOPERSTOWN TRIP (CONT.)

personality Ronnie “Woo Woo” Wickers who told me he was in town “to support Minnie and Buck”.

Also on the street, vendors hawking t-shirts, books, and player autographs can be found. With Gil Hodges getting the call this year, a popular theme was the 1969 Mets and Art Shamsky was visibly present signing his book on that team.

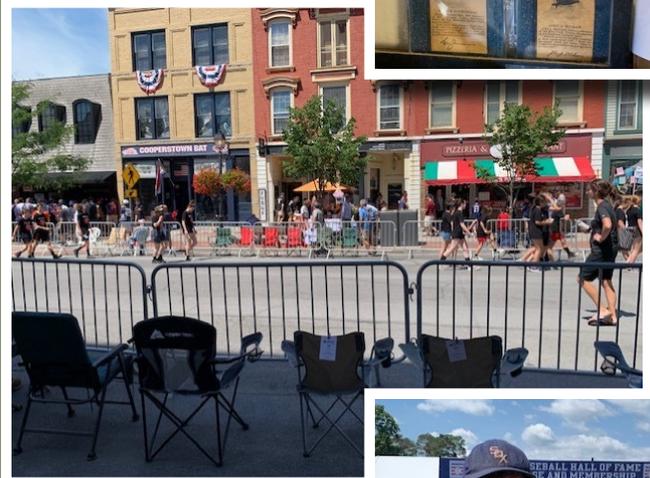
The big focus on Saturday is on the late afternoon parade of visiting Hall of Famers and inductees down Main Street that finishes at the museum. The town prepares early with barricades being put up along the route and attendees using chairs to grab and save prime viewing sites. In the parade, the Hall of Famers drive down the street with family members in open-air cars. The parade is conducted in order of induction with player in the Hall the longest leading off. This year that honor went to Juan Marichal who still looked spry in his 80s. The parade runs through the induction classes and finishes with the new inductees. This year, David Ortiz finished the ceremony to a big enthusiastic response.

On Sunday, the tour bus drove us directly to the grounds outside the Clark Sports Center where the induction ceremonies are held. The Clark Center is located about one mile south of Main Street and is surrounded by a wide-open field. Tents are set up containing a stage and seating for dignitaries. Behind the dignitary seating, chairs are set for donors to the Hall of Fame. Behind that seating, portable seating was set up for our tour group along with coolers containing cold water. So, we had a pretty good set-up for the ceremony.

This year, there was a threat of rain in the late afternoon which was accompanied by increasingly cloudy skies making the stay in the open field tolerable. It also led to the organizers scrapping some planned video presentations to just focus on the induction of the honorees and accompanying speeches. I was there to see Minnie inducted, but there were many fine speeches over the course of the day. Most notable was Dave Winfield’s finely researched talk that reviewed the career of Bud Fowler. Fowler was the earliest-known African American player in organized



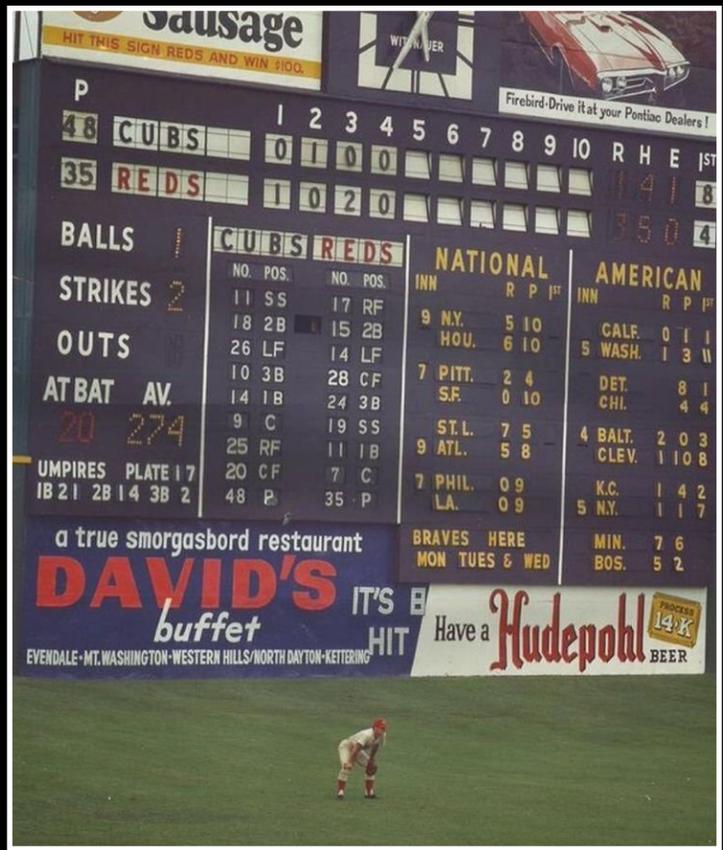
*Top: One of the Amazin’ Mets – Art Shamsky
Above: 43rd Cooperstown Card Show
Right: 1913 Tuxedo Tobacco Set (Photos: Richard Smiley)*



*Above: Pre-Parade Main Street.
Right: In the field by the Clark Sports Center on Induction Day. (Photos: Richard Smiley)*



SCOREBOARD PUZZLER



Above: Fans watch as the grounds crew prepares the Field of Dreams in advance of the evening's game. (Photo: Ryan VanDerKarr)

FIELD OF DREAMS (CONT.)

The bullpens were beyond the outfield walls and decorated like corn so it appeared that they were going in and out of the corn when entering and leaving the bullpen. In addition, video and pictures shown at the game and on social media showed the players entering and exiting the actual corn fields. The day was extra special for Cedar Rapids pitcher Matt Mullenbach and his family. Although Matt said that he had never previously visited the Field of Dreams, he grew up in western Iowa and his dad proposed to his mom in Dyersville. Matt got his opportunity in the fifth and pitched a scoreless inning for the Bunnies.



COOPERSTOWN TRIP (CONT.)

professional baseball and the first player from Cooperstown (where he grew up) to be inducted in the Hall of Fame. Fowler's dedication to and love of the game of baseball shown through Winfield's speech. This was also the case with the speech given by Angela Terry, Buck O'Neil's niece, which strongly reflected his love of the game and what he went through in order to compete in it. Jim Kaat's speech was sprinkled with memories of going to Briggs (Tiger) Stadium with his father to see Hal Newhouser pitch and the impact it had on him. Tony Oliva recalled the many people who helped him along the way to become the great hitter that he was.

But this was clearly Papi's party, and the big reception was for the induction of David Ortiz. While waiting for the induction to start, I came up with my own informal estimate of what type of gear (be it hat, t-shirt, jersey, tank top, etc.) the crowd was dressed in the following:

- Papi Gear: 55%
- Red Sox Gear (Non-Papi): 15%
- Twins Gear: (not specifically Kaat or Oliva, but clearly in support): 15%
- Gil Hodges Gear: (Mets, not Dodgers): 5%
- Other Gear: 10%
- Miñoso Gear: Me!

Overall, the trip was fun and I was glad to be able to cheer for Minnie when he got inducted.

Let's test your scoreboard identification skills. From the clues in this photo, can you successfully guess the exact date of the game? You may need to zoom in. Some of the clues might be deceiving. Good luck.

Our July-August 2022 issue had one photo with two questions, and we had two correct guesses. The following chapter members correctly guessed the date was May 24, 2022 and that Nick Pivetta recorded the win against Dylan Cease. The Red Sox beat the White Sox, 16-3.

Ed Hartig / Richard Smiley

Do you have a scoreboard photo that will have your fellow chapter members scratching their heads? Send it to Bill Pearch at wcpsearch@comcast.net. Note that photos are not limited to Chicago ballparks.

NOT ABLE TO ATTEND SABR 50 IN BALTIMORE?

CLICK THE LOGO TO WATCH TALL OF THE PRESENTATIONS



14 RED BARBER (CONT.)

me, and I believe I was a son to him.” When Vin joined Barber and Connie Desmond in the Brooklyn Dodgers’ booth, he learned quickly about Barber’s passion for excellence: “The biggest thing about Red was the fact that he cared. I wasn’t just another kid in the booth. I wasn’t just another announcer. He made sure that my work habits were good, and he rode me if I indeed drifted off away from what he felt was the ideal way to work.” After Barber died, Scully wrote in a Reader’s Digest tribute to him that Red was “radio’s first poet” and “the most honorable man I ever met.” For Vin Scully, Red Barber “was more than a sportscaster. He was the voice of truth.”

In addition to his star pupil, Scully, Barber also directly influenced several more of the game’s greatest voices. Dick Enberg, a 2015 Frick Award winner, saw Barber as “a teacher to his contemporaries over thirty-three years of broadcasting” and “a man who showed all of those who followed how to report a baseball game.” Just as radio had linked a young Barber in Florida to the legendary Graham McNamee, it connected Enberg, as “a twelve-year-old farm boy unloading apple crates from the barn” in rural Michigan to Barber broadcasting from Ebbets Field in Brooklyn. Enberg and his father were listening to Game Four of the 1947 World Series when Lavagetto’s hit ended Bevens’s no-hitter, delivering a heart-stopping victory to the Bums and etching for Enberg “a Series that will live in my memory as the most exciting ever.”

Ernie Harwell, hired by Branch Rickey to fill in while Barber recovered from his near-fatal bleeding ulcer, had also listened to Barber from afar. At the Columbus centennial celebration, Harwell recalled, “When I was growing up, down in Georgia, Red Barber was my hero, and later on I had the privilege of working with him at Brooklyn, ... He was a mentor, and most of all a friend. “Harwell succinctly sums up the practices that Barber invariably executed: “Red was the consummate professional, the classic baseball announcer. He’d come to the ballpark and he’d talk to players, managers, coaches, umpires, and have a complete knowledge of the game before he even got to the booth. And then he knew how to describe, he knew how to be sincere; he knew how to be fair.”

In his centennial remarks, Bob Picozzi of ESPN Radio offered a touching personal reflection on the breadth of Barber’s contributions to sportscasters:

Red Barber wrote the book on play-by-play, literally and figuratively. How often should you give the score when doing a baseball game on the radio? Well, it’s simple; let the sand make its way from the top of the three-minute sized hourglass to the bottom, and then it’s time to give the score and flip over the hourglass. Simple and genius. I learned that one from Red. And when I listened to games as a kid, it wasn’t only because I wanted to see if my team won, but because I wanted to hear how Red described the game. It was like watching Michelangelo paint or Olivier act.

Picozzi also internalized Barber’s passion for professional responsibility. Sportscasters, like the players on the field, needed to work for excellence in every broadcast and push themselves to improve. Picozzi explains: “Every time you go on the air, you owe it to give your best; you owe it to the sponsor, you owe it to the folks who pay you, more importantly, you owe it to your audience. Most importantly, you owe it to yourself.”

For other sportscasting greats, Barber’s dogged insistence on impartiality was an essential takeaway from the Old Redhead. In his book *You Can’t Make This Up*, Al Michaels, the 2021 Ford C. Frick Award winner, credits Barber and his protégé Scully with his passion for objectivity: “I have always taken my cue from Vin Scully and Red Barber and shied away from being a ‘homer.’ I wanted to be impartial and call games in a straightforward fashion. If the opponent did something well, I praised them. If the Reds didn’t do something well, I addressed that.” Curt Gowdy, the most prominent national sportscaster of the 1960s and 1970s and another Frick Award winner, also absorbed Barber’s belief in impartiality as part of his own legacy. In his 2006 New York Times obituary for Gowdy, Richard Sandomir reported that Gowdy “modeled his objectivity on Red Barber,” proudly announcing, “I’m no cheerleader You have to instill confidence in your listeners.”

Barber’s peers and the generation that followed him learned directly from the master, but third-generation listeners also absorbed Barber’s skills from old recordings. Barber’s detailed descriptions impressed Bob Costas, yet another Frick Award winner: “I’ve heard tapes of Red Barber in the 1930s and ’40s where he tells you there’s a line single to left center and he tells you how many times it bounced before the center fielder picked it up Today, even the very good announcers will very rarely describe a guy’s stance or the peculiarities of a guy’s windup, because they’ve been subconsciously influenced by television, even though they’re on the radio.”

Chris Berman, Costas’s generational peer, developed one of his most famous catch phrases and learned a crafty announcing tactic from a Barber recording. When the ESPN Sports Center star heard a replay of Barber’s “Back, back, back, back, back, back” call of Gionfriddo’s catch of DiMaggio’s left field shot in Game Six of the 1947 World Series, he thought to himself, “Back, back, back; you know, I’m going to try that tonight on Sports Center when I do some baseball highlights. Now that it has become my staple. I owe Red Barber a huge thank you, but it’s become a way to describe a ball when you are doing live play-by-play. It goes back, back, back, and I’m covered whether it goes over the fence or the outfielder makes the catch. Red Barber was truly a genius.”

While other sportscasters influenced the next generation of announcers who had listened to them on radio, television, or recordings, Red Barber, unlike most of his peers, also wrote extensively about the mechanics of his profession. Before such textbooks were common, college instructors used *The Broadcasters* as both a history of and practical guide to sportscasting. Bob Costas, for one, read Barber’s *The Broadcasters* while in high school. Jon Miller, arguably the most critically acclaimed baseball announcer of the past twenty-five years, learned at least two valuable lessons from Barber’s writing. The first was that an egg timer could remind an announcer to give the score frequently: “The score is the most important piece of information in any broadcast. Nothing else you say has any relevance until the listener knows the score.” The second lesson was that a play-by-play announcer has to maintain a healthy social distance from the men on the field.

Monte Moore, longtime Oakland Athletics broadcaster and Miller’s mentor, lent the twenty-two-year-old novice a copy of *Rhubarb in the Catbird Seat*. Moore had always respected Barber and knew Miller could learn much from the master. For Miller *Rhubarb in the Catbird Seat* was a game changer. He wrote in his own 1998

RED BARBER (CONT.)

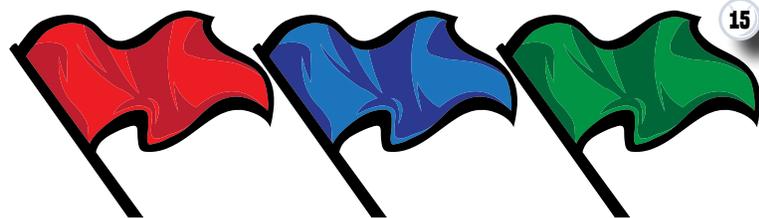


book, *Confessions of a Baseball Purist*: “I devoured that book. I was totally absorbed As someone just starting in the business, I took very seriously [Red’s] advice not to get too friendly with the players. The job demands that you report on them, and at times, even report negative things about them, Red wrote. And if they’re close personal friends, he warned, that could be difficult. ... To a twenty-two-year-old, Red Barber’s advice made a lot of sense. I took his words to heart.”

But it took a little time to fully absorb the message. Miller tells us that he and his wife became good friends with Jim Sundberg, the great Texas Rangers catcher, and his wife. One day Sundberg confided to him that his arm was sore and that the pain was affecting his throwing. Sundberg was known for his powerful throws, which kept the opposition’s running game in check. Without thinking much about it, Miller shared this “inside information” on the air, much to the chagrin of Sundberg when he heard about it. If they were listening, the Rangers’ opponents for upcoming games were no doubt delighted to receive Miller’s hot tip. The meaning of Red’s advice became clear: “Mr. Barber had a rule he employed to avoid such misunderstandings: When he spoke with managers and general managers, he’d make it very clear they should not offer any information that could not be put out on the broadcast. Don’t tell me something if I can’t use it. Red would warn; in a live-broadcast situation, where snap decisions must be made, it would be too confusing to have to remember which information can be used and which can’t.”

Barber’s passion for professionalism, as he defined the term, rubbed off on even his most unwilling pupil. After Phil Rizzuto was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame as a player in 1994, Richard Sandomir of the New York Times asked him if he thought he might win the Ford C. Frick Award for his years of work as a Yankees announcer. He told Sandomir, “I’d refuse it. I’m not a professional broadcaster. I’ve been told that over and over. I’m a homer. I’d really be embarrassed to accept something like that.”

Barber’s legacy for the field of broadcasting was his articulation of rigorous professional standards and habits that he formulated for himself and tirelessly practiced but that he also impressed upon those who worked with him, listened to him, and wrote about him. Tom Villante, Barber’s Brooklyn broadcast producer, insisted that “of all of the announcers I’ve met in baseball, without a doubt, Red Barber was the craftsman I always refer to him as the master. He was the master radio play-by-play man.”



ZEMAN’S ZINGERS



BY: DAVE ZEMAN

The 2022 MLB postseason is just around the corner. Did your favorite team advance? 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. Roman author of *Naturalis Historia* / Cubs Opening Day shortstop in 1962
2. Silent era comedian known for hanging from a clock / Had 223 hits as a rookie for a pennant winner
3. *Braveheart* character / saved an even 300 games
4. 1990’s AL Rookie of the Year / Former Treasury Secretary and Chief Justice
5. The Great Compromiser / Led NL in saves for a team that lost to Oakland in the World Series

JULY-AUGUST 2022: HOW DID YOU DO?

1. Led the pennant-winning 1944 Browns in victories / 19th-century Chicago hotelier **Nelson Potter Palmer**
2. Gold medal winning gymnast in 1984 / First to win Cy Young awards for two different teams **Mitch Gaylord Perry**
3. Tom Cruise’s first wife / First to win the MVP award for two different teams **Mimi Rogers Hornsby**
4. Oldest current major league pitcher / Emmy-winning police drama **Rich Hill Street Blues**
5. Won 17 games for the 2008 White Sox / Mayberry tonsorial artist **Gavin Floyd Lawson**

2022-2023 NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION SCHEDULE

Chicago’s Emil Rothe Chapter is a bimonthly publication. We want to highlight your contributions. If you would like to submit content for a future issue, contact Newsletter Editor Bill Pearch at wcpearch@comcast.net.

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