

# THE SQUIBBER

## September 2023

The Squibber is the SABR Bob Davids Chapter's newsletter. It is emailed to chapter members roughly every three months. If you're a Bob Davids chapter member and are not getting the Squibber, please check that your email address and chapter affiliations listed on the SABR site are correct. Please send submissions for future editions to Squibber editor Walt Cherniak at [wcherniakjr@aol.com](mailto:wcherniakjr@aol.com).

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**TRIVIA QUESTION:** Who hit the first home run for the 1961 expansion Washington Senators (now Texas Rangers)? (See answer below).

## **SAVE THE DATE: Annual Meeting Scheduled**

The Bob Davids Chapter's annual meeting has officially been scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024 at the Helix Room of Booz Allen Hamilton's downtown D.C. headquarters, 901 15th St. NW in the McPherson Building. It will be an IN-PERSON meeting.

Chapter leaders will be soliciting your ideas for research presentations, so start now thinking about a presentation you may want to make during the meeting.

Full details will come later about hours, price, lunch, the book raffle and other elements that make the Bob Davids Chapter's meeting the best-attended meeting in all of SABR.

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: Bob Davids Chapter Keeps Growing, By Ed Baranoski**

Take a gander at who has joined the Bob Davids Chapter this summer. Recognize any names? No? Then come and get to know them at our first-Saturday "Talkin' Baseball," our third-Tuesday Hot Stove dinner, our annual chapter meeting, and/or our baseball outings and other events.

Mike Costa  
Bob Luke  
Tom Ferraro  
Adam Brand  
Shelby Robertson  
Trawick "Tray" Stubbs  
Harry Kaplan  
Natalie Montanez  
Michael Bowers

## **THE DEADBALL FILES: Check Out Baseball Mysteries**

Author and Bob Davids Chapter member Jerry Manheim reports that his series of baseball mysteries and thrillers has a new home: Sunbury Press. It also has a new name: The Deadball Files.

New editions of the first three books have just been published, and the fourth book in the series is now available as well. The Federal Case is a contemporary legal thriller and, like all of the books in the series, traces its roots to events of the Deadball Era — in this case to the fate of the Kansas City Packers and the Federal League challenge to organized baseball.

You can learn more at Jerry's website, [jmanheimbooks.com](http://jmanheimbooks.com), or at [Sunburypress.com](http://Sunburypress.com).

## **LOW RATINGS FROM THE SKIPPERS: By Francis Kinlaw**

Until statistical analysis became the accepted method of evaluating athletic performance, sportswriters and fans seldom hesitated to express personal views regarding the strengths and weaknesses of major-league players.

In 1960, Milton Richman of Sport magazine took a full-blown approach to such an exercise in the publication's July issue by comparing every regular position player in the eight-team American League to his peers, with rankings based upon opinions of American League managers during that season: Casey Stengel (Yankees), Paul Richards (Orioles), Al Lopez (White Sox), Cookie Lavagetto (Senators), Billy Jurgens and/or Pinky Higgins (Red Sox), and Bob Elliott (Athletics). Joe Gordon and Jimmy Dykes, the subjects of a mid-season trade of managers by the Tigers and Indians, also participated.

The qualities of each club's pitching staff and utility players were also ranked from best to worst, but by team rather than individually.

Many fans in the mid-Atlantic region of the country were naturally quite interested in how players wearing Senators uniforms were perceived by opposing American League skippers, but they had little reason for optimism as they opened the pages of the magazine.

Since losing 101 games in 1955, the Senators had finished in last place in every season except 1956, when they "jumped" into seventh place. The 1960 team would achieve a better result (fifth place) — the final year of the Griffith regime in the nation's capital — but still fail to escape from the second division.

The results of the managerial survey relative to Washington's team, and Richman's summaries of his findings, were the following:

First base – The Senators' combination of Julio Becquer and Don Mincher were given the lowest possible rating among the league's first sackers. "Becquer hit .268 in 108 games in 1959 but lacks power. He is a good fielder. Mincher, obtained in a trade that sent Roy Sievers to the White Sox, hit 22 home runs and had 92 RBIs in the Sally League last year, but may not be ready for the majors. He is only 21 years old."

Second base – Billy Gardner ranked sixth among the second basemen, ahead of only Marv Breeding of the Orioles. "Weak hitter but great hustler. Can play every day. Good double-play man and a pretty good arm. Otherwise undistinguished."

Third base – Harmon Killebrew was rated as the third-best at the hot corner, behind Frank Malzone of the Red Sox and Eddie Yost of the Tigers. "(Ranked this high) only because of his bat. Doesn't hit much for average but has as much power as any right-handed hitter in the league. His fielding isn't up to major-league standards. A very slow runner."

Shortstop – Billy Consolo was considered to be the seventh-best at this position, ahead of only Ken Hamlin of the Athletics. "A poor hitter who has a .223 average in seven major-league seasons. Almost no power at all. Only fair in the field."

Left field – Jim Lemon was placed in the sixth spot. "Home-run power at the plate is his forte. Moves

fairly well for a fellow his size. Only average defensively.”

Center field – Dan Dobbek ranked at the bottom of the list. “From what little the managers have seen of him, they like his prospects in perhaps another year or two. Has shown power. Lennie Green, who hasn’t hit too well in the past, may fill in here.”

Right field – Bob Allison, while ranking fifth, drew more respect than most of his teammates. “Good power, good base runner and a good arm. Needs improvement in the outfield and must raise his batting average at least 20 points from last year’s .261 before he can be rated as outstanding. All the managers like his potential.”

Catcher – The Senators’ combination of Earl Battey and Hal Naragon were rated below all other backstops. “Battey, a fine defensive catcher obtained from the White Sox, has just about hit his weight (200) in the major leagues. Naragon, who hit .247 in 85 games in 1959, is a better hitter but a weaker fielder.”

Pitching staff – Washington’s hurlers placed seventh, ahead of the Athletics’ contingent. “Camilo Pascual has the best curveball in the league, and he drew a couple of votes from managers as the league’s Number One pitcher, Pedro Ramos, is also rated highly, despite his penchant for throwing home-run balls, but after that the Senators are in trouble. No other pitcher on their staff, said the managers, has proven himself capable of winning consistently in the majors. Closest was Bill Fischer (9-11 in 1959) and Russ Kemmerer (8-17). Kemmerer is rated as being better than his record showed. The bullpen is fair. Submarine-baller Dick Hyde is a question mark because of arm trouble. Tex Clevenger keeps the ball down low and is rated highly as a reliever.”

The bench – Another seventh-place ranking was given to the Senators in this category. “Infield reserves Ronnie Samford, Reno Bertoia, and Ken Aspromonte can’t hit enough to scare opposing pitchers. Outfielder Lennie Green is adequate defensively, but weak with the bat. Faye Throneberry is the only long-ball hitting reserve.”

These unimpressive individual ratings, with only Harmon Killebrew appearing in the upper 50 percent of a category, could have been anticipated given the Senators’ poor record in the late 1950s.

If the ratings of Washington’s position players had been converted into numbers with the best player at each position receiving a “1” and the worst an “8,” the average for the eight Senators regulars would have been 6.375 and the average attained by a combination of the pitching staff and reserves would have been 7.00. If the ratings of the eight position players had been combined with those of the pitching staff and frequently used reserves, the cumulative score would have been 6.50. None of these calculations suggest that the Senators had the makings of a competitive team.

It can be claimed, of course, that every fielding position is not of equal importance, and that some roles should be assigned greater weight than others. If differing weights are given, the positions receiving “extra credit” might very well be those in the middle of the diamond (catcher, second base, shortstop, and center field). The ratings for Senators players were at or near the bottom of the scale in each of these categories.

Before concluding this review of the managerial survey, another interesting comparison can be made. To what degree did the managers’ evaluations match the American League’s starting line-ups in the two All-Star games that were played in the month of the Sport article’s publication? (The first of these

games was played in Kansas City's Municipal Stadium on July 11, and the second two days later in Yankee Stadium in New York.)

The starting lineups were chosen in a poll of players, managers, and coaches, with no one allowed to vote for a player from his own franchise. After votes were counted, All-Star managers Walter Alston of the Dodgers and Al Lopez of the White Sox selected players to complete their respective rosters and chose their starting pitchers.

None of Washington's players gained election to the American League's starting lineup, but Lopez selected Jim Lemon and Camilo Pascual to represent the Senators in the games. (Pascual was removed from the roster prior to the first game.)

Lemon entered the first game in its sixth inning, replacing Minnie Minoso in left field. He made two plate appearances later in the game, taking a called third strike from Roy Face and drawing a base-on-balls from Bob Buhl. He did not play in the Bronx two days later.

Although neither the managerial survey conducted by Richman nor the results of voting by a larger pool of baseball professionals can be considered definitive, both reflect a consensus that the Senators' 1960 roster included a few players (including Pascual, Killebrew, Lemon, and Ramos) who were capable of filling roles on any major-league team. Although the team as a whole failed to achieve success, the accomplishments of these individuals should not be overlooked by fans of their era.

### **WHAT'S IN A NAME? In Spire City, the Game's the Thing, By Mark Pattison**

The Bob Davids Chapter's second minor league trip of the 2023 season was to Frederick, where a crew of SABR faithful took in a game between the host Spire City Ghost Hounds and the visiting Staten Island FerryHawks.

As had been the case in Bowie a month before, we got stood up by team management who were supposed to do a little chat and some Q-and-A with us.

Getting snubbed like this could cause someone to get a complex! At least it wasn't the scoreboard's fault for the no-show. There are two scoreboards at "Nymeo Field at Harry Grove Stadium" and they both worked just fine -- although one of our members grumped that the radar gun had to have been at least six miles per hour slower than reality.

Had there been a Q-and-A, my first question would have been, "Did you guys have a name contest, and if you did, what were some of the LOSING entries?" It turns out there's a basis for this doubly odd name. While Frederick is not known colloquially as "Spire City," many historic buildings have spires, including a Lutheran church that's some 275 years old. And "Ghost Hounds"? The ballpark is across the street from a cemetery; no word on whether any pets are buried there (cue Stephen King).

It turns out that Attain Sports and Entertainment owns both the Ghost Hounds of the Atlantic League of Professional Baseball (because God help us if a minor league chooses "AL" as its initials) and the MLB Draft League Frederick Keys, and they use the same ballpark, which created at least one scheduling jam: The Southern Maryland Blue Crabs, their geographically closest league rival, never visited Frederick this season.

A stadium worker told one of our group that the Keys, despite being a lower level of play, consistently outdraw the Ghost Hounds. In fact, they still sing "Shake Your Keys" during the seventh-inning stretch, and there's an ad-wrapped car in the parking lot bearing that phrase.

There is also talk that the city of Frederick wants to get an MLB-affiliated minor-league team back in town, and has floated the idea of building a new ballpark to do so.

Taxpayers may not be happy, but fans would be; they still shout "O!" during the National Anthem even though the Orioles deserted Frederick in the minor-league contraction of 2021.

Singing the anthem was country singer Reed Foley, who gave a postgame concert following the obligatory Saturday fireworks show. He's no Red Foley, but he's a better singer than he was a ceremonial first-pitch thrower.

Visitors to Harry Grove Stadium may be confused whether the outfield wall (325, 400, and 325 feet from home from left field to right) is really high or really low. With 49 outfield ads, one is excused. In truth, the upper two tiers of ads are set back from the field-level tier, making home run robberies possible.

Concessions are plentiful and reasonable. If you go to Bruster's Ice Cream -- I got "Death by Chocolate" -- you're forgiven if you call the opponents the "Atorvastatin Island" FerryHawks.

One nice touch was using somebody to imitate the cartoon voice of C. Montgomery Burns of "The Simpsons" fame, giving a leadup to one of his signature lines, "Release the Hounds!" Another nice touch was having a guy in a hot dog costume heaving aluminum foil-wrapped frankfurters over the high netting between the dugouts, except for his last two tosses. (That dude's gonna need Tommy John surgery.)

During the bottom of the first inning, a young boy came down near our section and asked what had happened. His not-that-much-bigger sister replied, "Somebody hit a home run." That "somebody" was Spire City's Jose Marmalejos, chosen the player of the game for going 3-for-3 with a homer and two doubles, plus a walk and three RBIs.

In the game, Staten Island tended to score, forcing Spire City to play catch-up. Ghost Hounds starter Dustin Beggs leads the team with six pickoffs, and added two to his total Aug. 19. Backup catcher Pete Yorgen also nailed a would-be base stealer as Staten Island ran themselves out of two innings. Before leaving the game after one inning with an injury, starting backstop Kole Cottam, ALPB player of the month for July, also tagged out a FerryHawks runner trying to score.

The contest had been largely a pitchers' duel, with both starters going six innings. Staten Island broke through with five runs in the top of the seventh, and I thought Spire City's ghost had been cooked. But the Hounds, one of the worst offensive teams in the ALPB, came back with six runs in the bottom of the eighth inning -- and it would've been seven had a runner actually touched home in evading a catcher's tag. Ex-Pirate Dovydas Neverauskas came on in the ninth to pitch a 1-2-3 inning and earn his fourth save. Ghost Hounds win, 9-8.

The Atlantic League is trying out a rule change under consideration by MLB: the designated runner. A pinch-runner can come in without the fellow he's replacing having to leave the game. But in that six-run eighth, Luke Becker reported for duty as designated runner not once, but twice -- for different

players! He scored both times to boot.

The Ghost Hounds have nine former big-league players on their roster, including Starlin Castro, who played for the Nationals 2020-21 and was on the reserve list for this game, and Raudy Read, a catcher with two cups of coffee with the Nats in 2017 and '19.

Where these guys think they're going is anyone's guess -- especially since Daniel Murphy, another ex-Nat (2016-18) who's better than those two guys combined, abandoned a comeback effort in August despite hitting .288 in 40 games, most of that in Triple-A ball, in the Angels' system.

### **REMEMBERING DICK ADAMS, By Walt Cherniak**

It is with great sadness that SABR noted the passing of Dick Adams, a longtime member of the Bob Davids chapter and a regular, active participant in our monthly Talkin' Baseball meetings.

Dick passed away at his home in Woodstock, Md., on Friday, July 28. He was 80 years old. A kind, funny and highly intelligent man, Dick's life was marked by a deep love for his family, a commitment to his career and a constant passion for learning.

A devoted fan and student of baseball since his boyhood in Chicago, Dick's passion for his hometown White Sox and their criminally underrated ace Billy Pierce followed him on his moves across the country.

A memorial service for Dick was held Thursday, Aug. 10, at Witzke Family Funeral Home in Ellicott City.

SABR extends its deepest sympathies to Dick's wife, Susan Kupper, and to all of his family and friends.

### **NEAR CLAIMS OF FAME (Of Sorts), By Andrew Sharp**

A pinch-hit at-bat at the end of the 1956 season made "Bonus Baby" Bob Aspromonte the last man to have played for the Brooklyn Dodgers when he hung up his spikes after the 1971 season. But the last member of the '57 Dodgers, the final season in Brooklyn, to retire? Catcher John Roseboro, later an all-star in Los Angeles, played in 35 games with the 1957 Dodgers. He ended his playing days with the expansion Senators in 1970, a year before Aspromonte's last season.

Similarly, the man who held the distinction -- for a year and a half -- of being the last of the St. Louis Browns was slugger Roy Sievers, who was A.L. Rookie of the Year in 1949 with the Browns. Sievers, A.L. home run and RBI leader with Washington in 1957, was released by the expansion Senators in May 1965.

The month before Sievers' release, a pitcher with a familiar name, Don Larsen, had been cut by the Orioles, which seemed to mark the end of his career at age 36. Larsen also played on the '52 Browns. In July 1967, after pitching all of the '66 season at AAA, Larsen was a surprise call-up by the Cubs. He pitched in three games, enough to make him the last of the Browns.

So if you want the last position players with the St. Louis Browns and the Brooklyn Dodger, they are

two former Senators, Sievers in 1965 and Roseboro in 1970.

The last player from the original Senators franchise to retire was new Hall-of-Famer Jim Kaat. Although he didn't pitch much for Washington in 1959 or 1960, Kaat lasted until 1983 with St. Louis.

The last of the expansion Senators to play was Toby Harrah, Washington's starting shortstop in 1971. Later an all-star with the relocated team in Texas, Harrah retired after the 1986 season.

The Expos, of course, became the Nationals in 2005. No former Expo from the 2004 team lasted beyond 2014, but a future Cy Young Award winner who pitched half a season for the Expos in 2002 was pitching in the majors for Texas in 2018 at age 45. That last man to have worn a Montreal uniform? Bartolo Colon.

### **MYTHS OF BASEBALL: TRUE OR FALSE??, By Charles Pavitt**

This is the 19th in a series of Squibber contributions intended to report the truth (as far as present data suggests) of the tidbits of "conventional wisdom" that TV analysts and comparable pundits make without any true knowledge about their validity. This is the third of these installments on a single issue; in this case, postseason play.

#### **Myth #55 – Pitching to contact works.**

No.

In 2004-2007 data examined by Russell Carleton, pitcher contact rate correlated at 0.610 with batting average and 0.494 with slugging average, in other words, a substantial positive relationship. The latest evidence comes from Rob Mains, who divided 2021 pitching data into five categories based on contact rate. As contact rate went up, so did ERA (3.68, 4.01, 4.17, 4.56, 4.92) and BA/OBA/SLG (.207/.305/.354, .232/.310/.392, .243/.317/.404, .259/.326/.435/, and .275/.328/.464).

#### **Myth #56 – Closers perform worse when called on in non-save situations.**

There is evidence in support of this myth. Russell Carleton (under his former alias Pizza Cutter) looked at all relievers with at least 15 saves between saves 1980 and 2007 (sample size 220 pitchers and 696 seasons) and compared basic metrics for when they pitched in designated save and non-save situations.

ERAs were respectively 2.91 vs 3.15, OPS was .629 vs .652, walks per 9 innings were 3.08 vs 3.39 and strikeouts per 9 innings were 8.12 vs 7.79. Russell speculated that this may be due to closers primarily being used in non-save situations when they had not pitched for a while, and so the deficit would be due to rust.

The more obvious explanation, adrenaline differences, is not as clearly indicated, as it should be more evident in comparing low vs. high leverage situations. These do not correspond well with the save situations; there is far higher leverage in a tie game in the 7th or 8th innings than in 9th innings with a three-run lead.



**Myth #57 – Some batters are consistently hot or cold in given months. Namely, they get off to hot/cold starts in April or have hot/cold finishes in September year after year.**

Russell Carleton (again labeled as Pizza Cutter) examined whether there was any evidence supporting the notion that some players are consistently hot or cold in given months, i.e., get off to hot/cold starts in April or hot/cold finishes in September year after year.

Using 2004-2008 Retrosheet data for hitters with at least 70 PA in the relevant month and 400 for the season, he correlated monthly OBA with seasonal OBA (and admitted that there is a confound in that each month is included in the year). The answer; the highest intraclass correlation was a very small 0.11 for May. In particular, Russell was looking for hot starts, but the April figure was a non-existent 0.01. In other words, there is no evidence here for batters being consistently good or bad in specific months.

**AMAZING STREAK: Brian Toronto's 129-0 Record, By Bob Schnebly**

Brian Toronto didn't think about his streak. He just wanted to have another good outing. Having won more than 50 games without a single loss, it was another Sunday and another win for the Charles County Raiders and Toronto.

The Raiders were the best team in the Chesapeake Independent Baseball League without the pitching of Toronto. With him they were simply untouchable. Brian didn't so much mow down hitters as he rolled ground balls and took advantage of the best infield in the league.

Toronto was described as "a true artist" and that artistry helped him go 129-0 on the hill for the Raiders from 1989-2007.

As the seasons wore on, those around Brian we all became very aware of his historic performances. But when he crossed 100 wins without a loss, no one said a thing. Baseball is very superstitious about such things, and Brian continued playing and pitching without a word being spoken.

Finally, when he passed 125 wins someone yelled out, "he's 125~0" and everyone thought his teammates would be angry. Instead, they just smiled as Brian and the Raiders racked up four more wins and finished his career an amazing 129~0.

**CLARK GRIFFITH WAS HERE (in 1894), By Gary Sarnoff**

"The sun is shining brightly," Clark Griffith said on the first day of spring training in 1920.

This was a new day, a new era in Washington baseball history. Just a few months earlier, Clark Griffith and a Philadelphia businessman named William Richardson became majority owners of the Washington Senators.

But this wasn't the first time Griffith made history in Washington. In fact, he first was archived into Washington baseball history long before this moment or when he arrived to manage the Senators in 1912.

Back in the 19th century, Griffith was a pitcher for the Chicago Colts (Cubs) when he helped make news in Washington. During a Colts visit to Washington, D.C., for a series versus the National League Washington Senators in August 1894, Arlington, Va., chief clerk H.P. Burney told his good friend and Colts Manager Cap Anson that it was not in mortal men to hold fast a baseball that was dropped more than 500 feet in shared space.

Anson said it could be done and insisted that he had a player on his current roster who could make that catch – Colts catcher Pop Schriver.

One morning before a game during the Colts-Senators series, Schriver and Clark Griffith journeyed to the Washington Monument. Griffith, a few baseballs in hand, hurried to the top floor of the monument while Schriver, his catcher's mitt in hand, readied himself on the north side of the obelisk.

This wouldn't be the first attempt by a player to catch a baseball at the Washington Monument. A few others had tried, including former Washington outfielder Paul Hines, who made his attempt in 1885. Like the others who had tried, Hines was unsuccessful. But, he said, "I have no doubt that the feat can be accomplished."

Shortly after Hines' attempt, an ordinance was passed prohibiting anyone from duplicating Hines' effort, with violators being subjected to a \$500 fine and arrest. However, having knowledge of the consequences didn't discourage Griffith and Schriver from trying.

Griffith's first toss was uncatchable, but on the second toss, Schriber succeeded, "catching it fair and square," according to the Washington Post. For over a decade, Schriber was praised for making a catch and Griffith was credited as the person who had tossed the baseball. But no catch was ever made.

In 1906, Clark Griffith set the record straight. "I had time to make two throws to Schriver before the monument police hustled up the elevator demanding to know what nonsense was going on...we beat a hasty retreat before we all got locked up.

"Schriver had no chance to catch the first throw, but it was my fault. I tossed it too far and he couldn't reach it. The second toss, I merely dropped out of the monument and the ball carried directly to his mitt, but he couldn't hold it and it popped out. It wasn't a catch, no matter what the papers say. Schriver was too nervous to hold the ball, and I don't blame him."

## **NEW DOCUMENTARY SHEDS LIGHT ON THE NEGRO LEAGUES: By Mark Pattison**

If you ever needed more evidence that Earth is rotating on a slightly wobbly axis, consider this: My spouse told me of a new baseball movie out in theaters -- and she saw it first!

The movie is a documentary, "The League," about the rise and demise of the Negro Leagues. As one of the many on-screen interviewees said, "The League" is shorthand for what Black folk called whatever Negro League had a franchise in their own town.

"The League," released by Magnolia Pictures, has no shortage of on-camera talent: Hank Aaron, Willie Mays, Satchel Paige, Ted "Double Duty" Radcliffe, Buck O'Neil, Maya Angelou, Max Manning, Chet Brewer, Monte Irvin, and Larry Doby.

SABR members would recognize the names of Larry Lester (who gets a second credit as a historical consultant to the film), historian Leslie Heaphy, and podcaster Shakeia Taylor.

Historians and other keepers of the flame abound as well: Bob Kendrick of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Layton Revel of the Negro Southern League Museum in Birmingham, Rob Ruck (whose voice makes it seem that he could have doubled as narrator), Mark Whitaker, and a host of others.

But beyond these top-shelf credits, what the keen-observing baseball fan should marvel at are the historical photos and film footage. It makes me wonder where all this stuff had been locked away, and why it hasn't seen the light of day for decades until now.

"The League" rolls by leisurely in fairly chronological order, starting with the on-field and entrepreneurial skills of Rube Foster, who got the team owners to band together and form the first version of the Negro National League in 1920. It takes us through the formation of the Eastern Colored League for East Coast teams soon afterward, the resultant Negro World Series, the style of play in Black baseball compared to the live-ball, slower-action tempo of segregated Organized Baseball; the tottering of the Negro Leagues by the Great Depression; the re-formed leagues and the creation of the East-West Game in Chicago, which served as the Negro Leagues' own all-star tilt; the intracity rivalry in Pittsburgh between the Crawfords and the Homestead Grays, not to mention the rise of Paige and Josh Gibson; and the miserable conditions teams encountered while traveling in the Jim Crow South.

But it was Blacks' selfless service in both World Wars I and II -- with the expectation each time that segregation would be dismantled -- that led the way to triumph and tragedy. More people agitated for Organized Baseball to break the color barrier. Finally, baseball listened with the signing of Jackie Robinson by the Brooklyn Dodgers. Mays remembered that before Robinson's debut, the three players they'd see most often in the baseball publications of the day were Joe DiMaggio, Ted Williams and Stan Musial. But with Robinson on the scene, Mays said, "it gave me hope that someday I might be on the front page."

Once Robinson was signed, it was only a matter of time before other Negro League stars were poached by the White majors. Black fans lost interest in seeing Black ball, now that the AL and NL were integrating. The Negro Leagues breathed their last in 1960, a year after the last all-White team brought up a Black player.

If there's any SABR member who's looking for a research project, the Negro Leagues is ripe for the picking. The 2020 declaration that "The Negro Leagues Are Major Leagues," and SABR's creation of a Special Negro Leagues and Teams Committee to study other leagues and teams from Black baseball history, the opportunities to make substantive contributions to baseball history and research are there.

**TRIVIA ANSWER:** Third baseman Billy Klaus slugged a solo homer off Cleveland's Jim "Mudcat" Grant in the sixth inning of the Senators' third game of the season, played at Griffith Stadium. The homer was the first ever for the franchise and accounted for Washington's only run in a 3-1 defeat.