



# ***SPOTLIGHT ON THE MINORS***

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MINOR LEAGUE COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

Oct/Nov/Dec 1997 Vol 4.3

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I. Committee News:

**1. TRIVIA QUESTION**

Who is the single season all-time slugging percentage leader in the Pacific Coast League? The answer is embedded within the newsletter, so read every word carefully.

**2. THE NEWSLETTER HAS A NAME!**

The winner of the Name That Newsletter Contest is committee member and President of Old-Time Data, Pat Doyle. Pat wins an autographed copy of The Diamonds of Dixie, and our congratulations. Twelve imaginative names were submitted and the vote was close. Thanks to everyone who participated by submitting a name or by voting. Results of the survey about member interests will be reported in the next newsletter.

**3. GILMORE FIELD SITE MARKED WITH PLAQUE**

On September 7, 1997, the site of former Gilmore Field in Hollywood was marked with a plaque, affixed to a wall of CBS Studio 46, about where the front entrance to the park was located. The Pacific Coast League Historical Society guided efforts to have the plaque installed and conducted ceremonies attended by over 300. The site of the plaque is open to the public, so stop by and pay your respects when you're in Hollywood. The day's program can be ordered for postage (see section 5 of the newsletter.) Thanks to Dick Beverage for the contribution.

**4. NOTIFICATION OF ADDRESS CHANGES**

Please remember to send an address change to the committee chairman when you move. A separate address file is maintained for the committee and notification of SABR does not change your address in the committee's files, at least not until something is mailed to you and returned. A change of address form will save time and SABR money. At worst,

failure to notify the chairman of a move might cause you might miss a copy of the newsletter. People have been known to go into deep depressions over that event.

## 5. TOROS BECOME TUCSON SIDEWINDERS

Dave Pietrusza sent along an announcement about the Tucson AAA Diamondback affiliate. First the club announced its affiliation with Phoenix on September 12th, and on October 22, 1997, changed their nickname of 29 years: "While the Sidewinders' logo incorporates the snake, there are many baseball and Arizona-related definitions of the word. A sidearm pitcher, such as Kent Tekulve, is referred to as a sidewinder. The U.S. military missiles and an old surly character in old western movies was often referred to as a sidewinder. . . The new team colors are turquoise and copper, both identified with Tucson and the Southwest." And that' s why the Toro' s are now Sidewinders.

## 6. BABE RUTH MUSEUM MINOR LEAGUE PROJECT

The Babe Ruth Museum is expanding into historic Camden station. One of the exhibit areas will showcase the history of minor league baseball in the aid-Atlantic area. They are looking for information on minor league teams--past and present--in Maryland, Delaware, Northern Virginia, Southern Pennsylvania and West Virginia. They want the following:

Memorabilia: programs, schedules, give-aways, etc  
Photographs of players and teams  
Player contracts  
Information, historical accounts, and anecdotal information

If you can help, please contact: Rebecca Kraus, Research Consultant (301) 464-2267, or Greg Schwalenburg, Curator, Babe Ruth Museum (410) 727-1539, ext 3011

## II. New Committee Members:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>INTERESTS</u>
Stephen Russ 206 W. Peach St. Apt. 18 Martin, TN 38237	West Tennessee Diamond Jaxx; Memphis Redbirds
Gordon W. Brown 102 Highland Crescent Kitchener, Ontario, Canada N2M 5C1	Minor League Ballparks, Canadian-Mich minors

Welcome!

## III. Names in the News:

This new section is for recognition of members who have done something newsworthy over the past quarter. But I hear of only a fraction of the accomplishments that should be recognized. So if you publish an article, appear on tv or radio, run a meeting, get elected to high office (ok, low office too), or are otherwise culled from the ordinary crowd, please send in a note for inclusion in this section. Or send in an item on someone else' s behalf. Don' t be modest! Actually, modesty isn' t a problem running rampant among SABR members, in my experience. Send me stuff! If I don' t get input, I' ll just insert "Minor League Committee Members did nothing of note this quarter."

**Bob Savitt** organized the Bob Davids Chapter autumn regional SABR meeting in November. Eighty five members attended the sellout event at the Brass Duck in Laurel, Maryland. The day-long program featured Jimmy Williams (a Career minor league player) on giving signs, Dave Vincent on the lot of a scorekeeper, a scouts panel, and a presentation by Manie "Peanut" Johnson, a woman who played in the Negro Leagues.

**Dick Beverage** was master of ceremonies for a ceremony dedicating a plaque marking the site of Gilmore Field in Hollywood. The event was attended by over 300 fans, players, former executives and politicians.

#### IV. Research Requests:

1. Eddie Anderson is looking for information about the career of minor leaguer Barry Cox. The player was from Florida or lived there at one time, and would be about seventy years old by now. He reportedly hit over 40 home runs in one year in the minors. Anyone with information on Cox' s career can contact Eddie at 624 SHernando St., Lake City FL 32025, (904) 752-7240.

2. Dayton, OH, had minor league baseball from 1884 through 1951 (and maybe will again in 1999). Jack Carlson is looking for any information regarding Dayton baseball, i.e., ballparks, people, uniforms, events and records. Contact him at 2904 Green Vista Or, Fairborn, OH, 45324.

3. Lile B. Anderson is pursuing a long-range project on the early history of baseball in the Pacific Northwest, with a primary emphasis on Seattle. The interest is primarily in "pre-P.C.L." history, but Lile would be please to make contact with anyone researching Pacific baseball history prior to 1920. Anyone sharing a similar interest or who can contribute please contact Lile at 15816 28th Avenue N.E., Seattle, WA 98155 (206) 365-3415.

4. Richard Isenberg is looking for information on the Montgomery (AL) Rebels, Southern League, 1970' s. He would especially like to see what the team logo looked like. If anyone has it please send an image on to Richard at 25 College Dr, Orange Park, FL 32065.

5. To the unknown person who e-mailed me about the San Joaquin Valley League: My apologies, I accidentally deleted your e-mail. To my knowledge, no one has researched the Class D 1910-1911 San Joaquin Valley League. Can anyone else confirm this or refute it? Again, sorry. Also, if I have failed to respond to anyone else, be assured that it is incompetence and not intentional. That may not be comforting, but electronic mail carries a fragility as cost for its facility.

6. Robert Pearson is working on an academic project involving the Montreal Royals from 1928 to 1960. He is especially interested in the socioeconomic aspects of their fan base. Anyone who has information or interest in the team during that period please contact him at: Department of History, Queen' s University, Kinston, Ontario, Canada.

7. Tom Kayser, President of the Texas League, is trying to fill in elements of league history beyond what is available in published works. He is presently concentrating on Dixie League Series games and has a list of Texas League cities where games were played in specific years. He is asking for help from committee members in obtaining game stories and box scores from local newspapers. Another project involves all-star games between Texas League and Mexican League all-stars in the 1930s and 1940s. Those interested and involved in Texas League research can contact Tom at the address in the SABR directory. Tom has done a vigorous job of getting the average game times down in the Texas League, so let' s use some of that extra time to help him out.

V. Research Resources:

1. Three or four times a month I receive inquiries about whether data are available for minor leagues of the distant past. The committee members who have done the most work in compilation, Bob McConnell Ray Nemeč and Bob Hoie have compiled a list of leagues, going back to 1902, for which averages were not published in the guides. Bob McConnell' s list includes SABR members who have compiled averages, and the incomplete Howe News Bureau averages are furnished where applicable.

1930 Arizona State Lg.	Bob Hoie
New England Lg.	Howe
Ontario Lg.	Howe
1931 Arizona-Texas Lg.	Howe
East Texas Lg.	Vern Luse
Palmetto Lg.	Howe
Rio Grande Valley Lg.	Howe
1932 Eastern Lg.	Jack Dougherty
Inter-State Lg.	Jack Dougherty
1934 Central Lg.	Howe
Northeastern Lg.	Howe
1938 Ohio State Lg.	Ray Nemeč
1939 Ohio State Lg.	Ray Nemeč
1940 Arkansas-Missouri Lg.	Ray Nemeč
1942 Evangeline Lg.	Ray Nemeč
1946 Mexican National Lg.	nothing

Ray Nemeč has furnished a list of leagues with missing averages that he believes are a top priority for research resources, and is especially interested in the 1917 Northern League.

1902 Southwest Iowa Lg.	1923 Kitty Lg.
1906 Inter-State Lg.	1924 Oklahoma State Lg.
1907 Western Pennsylvania Lg.	1930 Ontario Lg.
1917 Northern Lg.	1933 New England Lg.
1922 Kitty Lg.	1946 Mexican National Lg.

A third list, furnished by Bob Hoie, contains the cities of each league and goes back to 1903:

Southwest Iowa League 1903

Atlantic  
Clarinda  
Creston  
Osceola  
Red Oak  
Shenandoah

Missouri Valley League 1905

Fort Scott  
Fort Smith      Batting  
Muskogee      averages  
Parsons      only  
South McAlester needed  
Tulsa  
Vinita  
Webb City

Inter-State Association 1906

Anderson  
Bay City  
Flint  
Fort Wayne  
Lima  
Marion  
Muncie  
Saginaw

Inter-State League 1906

Bradford  
DuBois  
Erie  
Hornell  
Kane  
Oil City/Jamestown  
Olean  
Patton  
Punxsutawney

Western Pennsylvania League 1907

Beaver Falls  
Butler  
Clarksburg  
Connellsville  
Cumberland  
Fairmont  
Greensburg  
Kittanning  
Latrobe  
Piedmont  
Scottdale  
Somerset

Minnesota-Wisconsin League 1911-12

Duluth 1911  
Eau Claire 1911-12  
Lacrosse 1911-12  
Red Wing 1911  
Rochester 1911-12  
Superior 1911  
Wausau 1911  
Winona 1911-12

Northern League 1917

Fargo - Moorhead  
Minot  
Warren  
Winnipeg

Central Texas League 1914-1915

Corsicana 1914-15  
Ennis 1914-15  
Hillsboro 1914  
Italy 1914  
Kaufman 1915  
Mexia 1915  
Terrell 1915  
Waxahachie 1914-1915  
West 1914

Kitty League 1922-23

Cairo 1922-23  
Fulton 1922-23  
Hopkinsville 1922-23  
Jackson 1923  
Madisonville 1922  
Mayfield 1922-23  
Hilan 1923  
Paducah 1922-23  
Paris 1922-23  
Springfield 1923  
Trenton 1922-23

Oklahoma State League 1924

Ardmore  
Blackwell  
Bristow  
Cushing  
Duncan  
Enid  
Guthrie  
McAlester  
Pawhuska  
Ponca City  
Shawnee

Florida

Lakeland  
 St. Petersburg  
 Sanford  
 Tampa

Gulf Coast League 1926

Beeville  
 Corpus Christi  
 Edinburg  
 Kingsville  
 Laredo  
 McAllen  
 Mission  
 Victoria

Ontario League 1930

Brantford  
 Guelph  
 Hamilton

Oklahoma State League 1924 (cont.)

Attleboro	Unofficial
Brockton	averages
Lawrence	compiled
Lowell	by Howe
Nashua	News Bureau
New Bedford	appeared
Quincy	in guides
Taunton	
Woonsocket	
Worcester	

Mexican National League 1946

Chihuahua  
 El Paso  
 Juarez  
 Mexico City  
 Saltillo  
 Torreon

In his letter transmitting the data, Bob McConnell also noted: "Unpublished averages are only part of our problem. As you know, most lower Classification leagues cut off their averages to players in 3.0 or more games prior to 1960 and even the higher classification leagues used the 10 game cut in earlier years. Also, most leagues did not include extra base hits in the early years. Some work has been done in the area, but much more is needed. I would like to see someone complete the averages for the Eastern League, Connecticut State League, New York State League and Western-League for 1898 and 1899. These are good examples of averages in the guides not including 'LesThans' and extra base hits."

For those of you involved in or interested in compilation, please check your work against the above information. Also, researchers who have been unable to obtain player information through the guides can contact the Sources above. We will use the newsletter to disseminate current information as the lists are completed.

2. The following communication is from Corey Seeman, Director of Technical Services, National Baseball Hall of Fame Library:

"In an ongoing effort to collect and preserve material documenting the history of the minors, the National Baseball Hall of Fame is proud to announce the completion of the archival finding aid for the Three-I League Organizational Records (1937-1962). These records comprise two archival boxes (.75 cubic feet) and provide excellent documentation of the administration of this important Class B minor league. The Three-I League operated from 1901 through 1961 (with several interruptions), and took its name from the three states where it drew most of its members: Illinois, Indiana and Iowa. The archival finding aid is available at the Hall of Fame's Internet home page <http://www.baseballhalloffame.org/library/aids/msb2.html>. The archival finding aid includes a history of the league from the 1930s through 1961, a full description of the organizational records, a container list of the contents, and two lists providing information on the league presidents and member cities. This archival finding aid is the third one loaded on the Hall's internet home page and part of a major initiative to professionally our rich archival collection."

3. Ron Selter has compiled a list of slugging leaders for the Pacific Coast League for 1902 through 1957. Max West (4 titles) beat out Steve Bilko (3) for most slugging leader titles, but Tony Lazzera holds the single season record with .721 in 1925. Bunny Brief (.517 in 1916) was the slugging leader with the cutest name. Ron will e-mail you a copy: [selter@courier3.aero.org](mailto:selter@courier3.aero.org), or order below.

4. Gordon Brown, a Canadian committee member, has been working with Ted Lukacs in Florida, and they have compiled an important and impressive set of minor league ballpark statistics on a state-by-state basis. The database contains information from a variety of sources and contains a virtual history of cities which hosted minor league teams, their playing fields, league memberships, and known park details. Gordon and Ted are hoping that members will contribute and help fill in missing details. Their data is available at cost, but because of the time involved in compilation, they ask that members request no more than 4 or 5 states, unless they are working on a particular project that would justify more. So, if you are unfamiliar with Hop Bitters Grounds in Rochester, NY, Spudder Park In Wichita Falls, TX, Egyptian Field in Cairo, IL, or Lucky Strike Park in Reidsville, NC, Gordon' s address is available in the SARR Directory. And everyone should remember to help fill in missing information.

#### VI. Minor League Articles Available for Order:

Short articles which are of general interest to committee members should be mailed to the chairman for inclusion in this section. Copies will be reproduced and disseminated at cost, which is indicated after the article. Please make checks payable to Ernest J. Green, and not to SABR. If you have written an article (published or unpublished, except those already in SABR volumes) on the minors, or have compiled data and are willing to have it circulated, please send it in.

10. Program to commemorate the dedication of a plaque at Gilmore Field in Hollywood, CA. The program contains a short history of the Hollywood Stars, a picture (zerox) of the 1949 Stars, and an account, including box score, of the final game at Gilmore in 1957. (\$.50)

11. Brown, Gordon W., "The Guelph Biltmores of the 1930 Ontario Pro League," 1996 Guelph Senior Royals Program. A history of the 1930 Guelph entry in the Class D League that included the London Cockneys, St. Thomas Blue Socks, Brantford Red Sox, Hamilton Tigers and the St. Catharines Brewers. Included is a Toronto Sun article on the author as a dedicated ballpark hunter. (\$.50)

12. Furchgott, Roy, "Joy in Mudville: The Resale Value of Minor League Clubs," New York Times, October 26, 1997. An analysis of the economics of owning, buying, and selling minor league teams. (\$.50)

13. Schott, Arthur O., "Last exhibition at old Pel [Pelicans] Stadium showcased Williams [Ted]," together with "Longest Opening Game by New Orleans Club went 16 Innings," by the same author, Louisiana' s Official Baseball Historian. The latter includes the box score of the April 10, 1953 Birmingham-New Orleans game. 3 pages. (\$.50)

14. Lingo, Will, "Reality Can' t Kill Independent Dreams," Baseball America, Nov 24, 1997. An assessment of the independent leagues since the Northern League debut in 1993, and why of 15 that have opened for business, only 8 made it through 1997. A separate article on the Atlantic League is included. (\$.50)

15. Selter, Ron, "Pacific Coast League Slugging Leaders 1902-1957," described above. (.50)

#### VII. Publications:

1. Spalding, John E., Pacific Coast League Stars, Volume 2, self published, 1997. 152 pages, 150 plus photos. 90 biographies of players who played in the PCS, complete year-by-year PCL statistics are included for every player. No biographies duplicate those from Pacific Coast League Stars Vol.1. Order from the author at 1875 S. Bascom Ave, #116-257, Campbell, CA 95008, (408) 371-4371. \$27 hardcover, \$22 soft.

2. PCL ALMANACS. Statistical reviews for the Pacific Coast League seasons 1938 to 1942, and 1944. Over 175 pages of numbers and commentary including the results of every game compiled from box scores in the Sporting News. Statistical breakdowns never before published including series by series performance for both pitchers and batters, pinch hitting, home-road stats, lists of hitting streaks and low hit games, ball park figures, complete playoff statistics and much

more. Available from the author for \$14 (US) per volume or \$75 for all six including postage. Willie Runquist Box 189, Union Bay, B.C., Canada V0R 3B0.

Quote of the Quarter:

"Some of `em cry. Some get mad. Eut none of `em will leave until you answer `em one question: `Skipper, what do you think?' And yogotta look every one of those kids in the eye and kick their dreams in the ass and say no."

Earl Weaver, on sending minor league hopefuls home