

SABR Minor League Newsletter

Robert C. 'Bob' McConnell, Chairman
210 West Crest Road
Wilmington DE 19803
(302) 764-4806

Reed Howard

April 2003

rhoward@udel.edu

Annual SABR Convention in Denver

The Minor League Committee meeting is scheduled from 8 to 10AM on Sunday, July 13. The meeting had originally been scheduled for Thursday morning. We requested the change in order to get a larger attendance.

New Members

Note: addresses and phone numbers only shown if not listed, or different from that in the SABR Directory.

John Bell; 103 Creek Side Drive, Carrollton, GA 30116; (770) 834-7806; belljg@aol.com; has access to Carrollton daily newspapers, *Atlanta Journal & Constitution*- interested in histories of leagues in Georgia; has published *Shoeless Summer and Pickleit*; willing to help SOME with requests.

Scott Cowan; 20328 22nd Avenue NE, Shoreline, WA 98155; (206) 365-9346; scott@vintagecardboard.com; has access to *Seattle Times & Post-Intelligencer*, *Tacoma News-Tribune*, *Everett Herald*; has access to Univ. of Washington and State of Washington libraries; interested in Pacific Coast International League of 1918, Western International League, Pacific Coast League, Northwest League, Aberdeen Black Cats, Tacoma Giants & Tigers; is compiling stats on 1918 PCIL; willing to help SOME with requests.

Eric Dewberry; P0 Box 151, Surry, VA 23883; (757) 294-3230; dew22@mail.com; has access to Washington, DC papers, most all Virginia, especially Richmond and Norfolk papers; has access to Library of Virginia, Virginia Historical Society Library, Virginia Commonwealth Univ. Library; interests are Virginia State League League of 1894-96; Atlantic League of 1895-99, Virginia State League of 1900-30; willing to help SOME with requests.

Sue Fitzpatrick; 20410 Kirknont Drive, Saratoga, CA 95070; (408) 873-1711; sue_fitzpatrick@amat.com; has access to *San Jose Mercury-News*, *San Francisco Chronicle*; is looking for something to work on and is interested in helping with research.

Denver Howard; new phone (260) 744-5636; has great deal of material on umpires; has access to *Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette* and *News-Sentinel*, *USA Today*, Indianapolis papers; Interested in Midwest and Kitty Leagues, people in the Northeast Indiana Baseball Association Hall of Fame, umpires; willing to help CONSIDERABLE with requests.

John Olsen; has *Spalding & Reach Guides* 1920-41, *TSN Guides* 1942-69; has access to newspapers from Raleigh, Durham and Greensboro; has access to Davis Library at the University of North Carolina which has many US papers; Interested in Pacific Coast League, especially 1903-1960's; compiling transaction and daily lineup files of selected PCL seasons; nearly done with 1925 & 1956; would like to see database of minor league stats on line; willing to help SOME with requests.

Burr "The Ox" Oxley; burr.oxley@storaenso.com; has *TSN "baseball season"* issues 1960 thru mid-1980's, *USA Today*, *Baseball Weekly* mid-1980's thru late 1990's; has access to *Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune*; has access to University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point Library; interests are stats, especially comparative stats (Why were many more HR hit in the WTNM League than in the Florida State League?); Willing to help SOME with requests.

Paul Shapiro; new phone (310) 699-1668; new e-mail paulshap@earthlink.com; has access to Los Angeles County newspapers; interests are stadiums and New Jersey teams and their histories; will help a LITTLE with requests.

Paul Steeley; 410 Newnan Street, Franklin, GA 30217; (706) 675-1719; steeley@charter.net; has access to *LaGrange Daily News*, *Newnan Times-Herald & Times Georgian*, *Atlanta Journal & Constitution*; interested in LaGrange, GA team history in pro baseball; willing to help SOME with requests.

Questionnaires have not yet been received from the following new members:

Maury Brown, 0534 SW Texas Street, Portland OR 97219

Mike Cram, 6975 Brandt Pike, Huber Heights, OH 45424

John Herson, 1015 Eden Drive, Neenah, WI 54956

Anthony Lamonte, 16815 Colony Terrace, Sugar Land, TX 77479

Mark Peel, 2630 N. Forrest Lane, Arlington Heights, IL 60004

Change of Address

Dennis Bidwell; 876 Vandalia Road, Morgantown, WV; 26501

Correction

There was a note in the last committee newsletter about the American Association Almanac, which is published six times per year. The cost is \$8 per year. We listed an incorrect e-mail address. The correct address is pure457@aol.com. See www.kenkeltner.sabr.org/american_association_almanac.htm

Unpublished Statistics

Lloyd Johnson has an idea of publishing a book with minor league statistics that have never appeared in the guides. A large number of this data have become available in recent years. Included would be complete league averages and "Less Than" stats. In this age of computers, preparation for such a book would not be too costly. To give Lloyd a feel for interest in this project, contact him at 205 West 66th Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64113; or (816) 822-2516; or lloyd@msn.com.

If there is enough interest, Lloyd can move forward with some concrete plans. He has already discussed the idea with several key minor league committee members. We urge committee members to contact Lloyd and support this project.

Web Sites

The following world wide web sites may be of interest:

www.oregonstadiumcampaign.com/history.htm, includes history of Portland baseball
www.out-and-about.com/article.php?articleID=161, for an article on 1884 Wilmington - UA
www.geocities.com/big_bunko/minor.html, Mike McCann' s page of minor league history
gozips.uakron.edu/~mcmahon, Bill McMahon' s farm club site
www.ilstu.edu/~wfstein/31/home.htm, the Three I League
www.geocities.com/Nashville/9475/baseball.htm, 1885 pro baseball in Tennessee
www.minorleaguebaseball.com
www.angelfire.com/ak/indybaseball, present independent leagues

Let us know your favorite sites, If you go to goggle.com and enter something of your interest you may be surprised at all that you find.

Pacific Coast League Fncyclopedia

The June, 2002 newsletter carried an article on the PCL Encyclopedia. This book covers the 1903 thru 1957 seasons. 1957 is the cutoff year due to the fact that the majors invaded the league the following year and completely changed the makeup. The book is ready to roll off the presses in limited quantity. It will not be sold to the general public.

League Batting Champions

There was a 3-1/2 page article in the June, 2002 newsletter entitled "Determining Batting Champions". The article was basically about how many games or how many AB should be required for a player to qualify for a league batting title. We asked committee members to express their thoughts on the subject. Only two people responded. However, those two responses were very good.

Jim Price wrote, "It seems improper to me to retroactively apply our criteria to statistics of long ago. Those in charge at the time were probably no less sincere in the establishment of their standards than we are or were in establishing ours. It is quite appropriate, I believe, to correct actual mistakes, involving errors in posting and calculation. Sometimes, that may result in changing leaders in various categories. But, it is another thing to say someone else' s criteria were wrong within the context of their time.

Therefore, rather than changing the official record, I believe we should support annotation of official records to reflect the fact that modern standards would support a second person as the leader. Annotation should also recognize those cases where there was disagreement at the time. In either case, annotation should be brief and to the point. Otherwise, keepers of official records probably won' t stand still for amendment.'

John Benesch wrote, "Many of the league record books I' ve come across have contained numerous errors since they were probably developed by some intern working for a sportswriter. Only those books that were printed yearly and were receptive to feed back corrected the shortfalls. Open question: What is the Official Record?"

I've exchanged letters with Bob Hoie on the subject. Hoie prefers to go with the definition in place at the time the figures were developed. At this time, we cannot be certain for all leagues what the guidelines were at each point in time.

My personal recommendations for retroactively designating the batting champions are as follows: Through 1956 apply the 2.6 x player's team game total figure to calculate the qualifying AB total. The impacted player's team game total is required to be at least 90% of the league schedule. Insert hitless AB for any candidates that fall short of the qualifying AB total. No special allowances for catchers.

Example: 1950 Eastern League. Joe Kelly's team withdrew after having played 99 games. The 4 remaining teams played 171 games. $171 \times .90 = 154$; $154 \times 2.6 = 400$ AB. So Kelly qualifies with a .373 figure. Caldwell falls way short of qualifying.

1957 to 1973: Schedule x 3.1 = plate appearances to qualify. Hitless AB added if necessary."

John then listed the champs for the leagues listed in the original article, using his formula.

| | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|------------|----------------|
| 1920 SAL | Al VonKolnitz | 1926 PCL | Buzz Arlett | 1932 MDV | Brown Brailly |
| 1921 PCL | Duffy Lewis | 1927 FSL | Jim Bryan | 1932 WL | Jim Oglesby |
| 1922 AA | Beals Becker | 1928 NSL | John Stoneham | 1935 WL | Earl Brucker |
| 1922 BGL | Ray Class | 1929 AA | Dusty Cooke | 1936 AA | Torn Winsett |
| 1922 ECAN | Gus Swentor | 1930 AA | Bevo LeBourveau | 1937 NSL | Leon Riley |
| 1922 FSL | George Block | 1930 EL | Joe Kelly | 1938 CanAm | Bill Homan |
| 1922 IL | Frank Gilhooley | 1930 MAL | Joe Medwick | 1940 AL St | Gordon Goodell |
| 1923 App | Walt Mittwede | 1931 AA | Art Shires | 1942 PA St | John Jerina |
| 1923 FSL | Al Green | 1931 WA | Ab Wright | 1942 WA | Harry Clements |
| 1925 AA | Joe Guyon | | | | |

John has submitted a list of questionable batting titles that were not included in the original list.

First listed player is the declared champ.

| | <u>LgG</u> | | <u>AB</u> | <u>H</u> | <u>Avg.</u> |
|----------|------------|------------------------------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| 1903 PCL | 218 | Harry Lurnley, Seattle | 465 | 180 | .387 |
| | | Ed VanBuren, Portland | 779 | 281 | .361 |
| 1903 SA | 126 | Jim Smith, N. O./Shreveport | 361 | 128 | .354 |
| | | Jim Delahanty, N. O./Memphis | 345 | 132 | .382 |
| 1910 EL | 154 | Jack Slattery, Toronto | 365 | 113 | .310 |
| | | Will Osborne, Rochester | 582 | 176 | .302 |
| 1913 AA | 168 | Alex Chappelle, Milwaukee | 350 | 122 | .349 |
| | | Duke Reilley, Indianapolis | 466 | 157 | .337 |
| 1913 TL | 154 | Dennis Wilie, Beaumont | 352 | 114 | .324 |
| | | VanDuke Duncan, Dallas | 550 | 169 | .307 |
| 1915 IL | 140 | Chick Shorten, Providence | 543 | 175 | .322 |
| | | Maurice Rath, Baltimore | 361 | 120 | .332 |
| 1918 AA | 78 | Doc Johnston, Milwaukee | 115 | 43 | .374 |
| | | Cad Cashion, Minneapolis | 211 | 73 | .346 |
| 1918 U | 90 | Olen Nokes, Dallas | 192 | 64 | .333 |
| | | Clarence Kraft, Fort Worth | 240 | 74 | .308 |
| 1930 SAA | 140 | Dixie Walker, Greenville | 307 | 123 | .401 |
| | | Hal Sullivan, Ashville | 385 | 144 | .374 |
| 1937 PCL | 178 | George Detore, San Diego | 434 | 145 | .3341 |
| | | Harlin Pool, Seattle | 458 | 153 | .3340 |
| | | Marvin Gudat, Los Angeles | 621 | 206 | .332 |
| 1938 IL | 154 | Buddy Rosar, Newark | 323 | 125 | .387 |
| | | Charley Keller, Newark | 578 | 211 | .365 |
| 1938 PCL | 178 | Smead Jolley, Holly/Oakland | 414 | 145 | .350 |
| | | Bernie Uhalt, Hollywood | 635 | 211 | .332 |
| 1940 SA | 154 | Mike Dejan, Chaff/Birmingham | 340 | 126 | .371 |
| | | Emil Mailho, Atlanta | 555 | 202 | .364 |
| 1944 EL | 140 | Rip Collins, Albany | 323 | 128 | .396 |
| | | Roland Gladu, Hartford | 417 | 155 | .372 |
| 1946 SAL | 140 | Ted Kluszewski, Columbia | 335 | 118 | .352 |
| | | Frank Baumholtz, Columbia | 472 | 162 | .343 |

| | <u>LgG</u> | | <u>AB</u> | <u>H</u> | <u>Avg.</u> |
|----------|------------|-------------------------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| 1950 SAL | 154 | Peter Kraus, Charleston | 355 | 115 | .324 |
| | | Johnny Temple, Columbia | 519 | 167 | .322 |
| 1951 AA | 154 | Harry Walker, Columbus | 298 | 117 | .393 |
| | | Bob Cerv, Kansas City | 425 | 146 | .344 |

John has come up with another interesting batting race. Ed Yarmul is credited with winning the batting title of the Western Association in 1941. Stan Musial batted .379 with 348 AB and 132 hits before moving up to the International League and then to the Cardinals. Musial's team, Springfield, played 137 games. Applying John's formula, $137 \times .379 = 51.8$ 356 AB required for Musial to qualify for the batting title. Thus, we add 8 hitless AB to Musial's record and his average calculates to $132/356 = .371$. This beats Yarmul's .356.

The Texas League Media Guide and Record Book

This book is again being offered to SABR members. Tom Kayser, president of the Texas League, writes that more new features have been added to this latest edition. This is the best minor league record book that we have ever seen. The cost is \$12, including shipping. Send to Texas League, 2442 Facet Oak, San Antonio TX 78232.

Stats Completed

Bob Richardson has compiled complete stats for the 1911 New England League. Davis Barker has compiled the stats for the 1921 Texas-Oklahoma League. He has written an extensive report on the league in addition to the stats.

Northeast Indiana Baseball Association

This organization is a group of dedicated fans in the Fort Wayne area who have established a hall of fame and a museum. They have just obtained a permanent home with four walls and a ceiling. They are planning a grand opening in May. Denver Howard, a new Minor League Committee member, was one of the leaders in obtaining the home. This gung-ho group of fans has officers, a board of directors, a hall of fame committee and a periodic publication.

Baseball Ghosts

Lynda Lee Macken, is doing research for a story on baseball ghosts. She has asked our help in coming up with any stories on ghosts in the minor leagues. Her e-mail address is llmacken@hotmail.com and her phone number is (609) 971-9554.

Angels in the Ozarks

Jerry Hogan, not a SABR member, has written a book entitled *Angels in the Ozarks*, a history of Fayetteville in the Arkansas State League of 1934-5 and the Arkansas-Missouri League of 1936-40. It was published by Mid-American Folklore in the summer of 2002. With permission from the author, here are several interesting excerpts.

Frances "Sonny" Dunlap, All American girl basketball player and a local girl, played a full game for Fayetteville on Sunday, September 6, 1937. It was the next to last game of the season and it was against Cassville at Fayetteville. She played RF and did not have any fielding chances. She was 0 for 3 at bat, but made contact each time. The left fielder made a "nice running catch" on one of her drives. She is probably the first female to play a full game in an official contest in organized baseball. Sonny made her second appearance for Fayetteville on August 8, 1937. She played several innings at 2B and handled five chances cleanly. At bat, she was 1 for 2 with a single and a strikeout.

The Fayetteville club was short of cash at the beginning of the 1937 season. They purchased two sets of hand-me-down uniforms from the Ponca City Angels of the Western Association. With the season two days away, it was discovered that the newly received uniforms had "Angels" in script on the front of the jerseys of the 100% wool uniforms. The club couldn't afford to rip off the lettering stitch-by-stitch. They did the logical thing. They changed the team's name to ANGELS.

The SABR Guide To Minor League Stats

The second edition of this guide will be out this summer. There was a writeup in the March, 2002 newsletter. This book is a must for anyone doing statistical research on the minors.

Lee Riley

An article in the last newsletter on long service players states that Lee Riley played in 2043 games in the minors before playing in the majors. Bob Hoie points out that this is incorrect. The figure should be 1918 games. The problem here is in his record in *The Minor*

League Register. For 1944, he is listed as playing in 125 games for Utica and then going to the Phillies. In fact, he started the season with the Phillies. Thus, we have to subtract 125 games from his total before reaching the majors.

1911 New England League

Bob Richardson needs first names for the following players:

- Barrett; Haverhill; OF; previously with Providence
- Davis; Haverhill; C; previously with Elmira
- Geiger; New Bedford; C; previously with Baltimore
- Hollis; Haverhill; OF; previously in New York State Lg.; from Cincinnati
- Kelley; Haverhill; OF; previously with Albany
- Milliman; Haverhill; C; previously with Reading & Providence; called Edward and KC in different stories
- Wheeler; Haverhill/New Bedford; C; from Troy, NY
- Williams; Fall River/Lawrence/Haverhill; OF; from Matonia, IL; New Bedford, NEL in 1910; was an Indian and, naturally, called "Chief"
- Winchester; New Bedford/Lawrence; C; previously with Syracuse

Write to Bob at 386 Riverway #4, Boston, MA 02115, or call (617) 566-3426.

Correct First Names Wanted by Marc Okkonen

Marc Okkonen has a number of players with lengthy minor league careers who have been identified by different first names. He doesn't know if it is the same player or not, and is seeking help in properly identifying the players. Here are the alternate names and their playing span. Marc can be reached at 880 Woodside #1, Muskegon MI 49441, (231) 755-1240, okkonenm@aol.com.

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Wilbur/William Crouch | 910-16 |
| Oscar/Ollie Fuhrman | 1919-28 |
| Adolph/Albert Pierotti | 1919-27 |
| Ed/Fred Pipgras | 1926-34 |
| Edward/Edwin Quick | 1902-12 |
| Don/Drew Rader | 1918-29 |
| Alex/Archer/Duke/Barney Reilly | 1908-17 |
| Erwin/Jack Renfer | 1910-17 |

Philip Nadeau

Phil Nadeau's career record appears in *The Minor League Register*. His career spanned 21 years with 24 clubs in 14 leagues. Replayed in 2,582 games with 2,740 hits 571 stolen bases. Ray Nemecek is working on his biographical data. Nadeau's name at birth was Joseph Hermenegilde Nadeau. He was born on November 24, 1870 at Langgardien de Rouville, Quebec, Canada. He started using the name Philip at about the time that he began his pro baseball career in 1894. Nadeau played in Joliet, Illinois in 1910 which is in Nemecek's neck of the woods. Hence, Ray's interest in him. The Joliet club folded in June, 1910, but Nadeau still managed to lead the league in batting at age 40. Rewound up his career with four seasons in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Nadeau's date and place of death are still a mystery.

Japanese Statistics Report

The *2003 Japanese Major & Minor Leagues Statistics Report* has complete batting and pitching stats for every player who appeared in a game in the two major leagues and the two minor leagues. There are 13 columns for batters and 17 columns for pitchers. This book is particularly valuable to you statisticians who compile career records. A number of minor league stars played in Japan in 2002. The price is \$12.50, including shipping. California residents should add \$0.94 sales tax. Order from Baseball Press Books, P0 Box 22493, San Diego, CA 92192.

Nelson Barrera

There was an article in the last newsletter reporting the death of Nelson Barrera. Bob Hoie has pointed out a glaring error in the article. Nelson had 2937 hits in the Mexican League, not 2092. He is second on the all time Mexican League list and not the leader; Jesus Sommers holds the record with 3004.

From Arthur Schott

Art Schott has sent a number of interesting articles. Space does not permit all of them in this newsletter, but here are a few.

Durham and Raleigh played a home and home doubleheader on July 5, 1915. The first game was at Raleigh with the home team winning, 3-2, in 14 innings. The two clubs then journeyed 40 miles to Durham for the second game. This game ended in a 2-2 tie after 21 innings! 35 innings in one day should be a record for Organized Baseball unless someone can come up with a better mark. The two teams made 206 putouts in 376 minutes. That figures to an average of 1:59 per nine inning game, a little faster than they play today.

New Orleans had two minor league teams in 1912. New Orleans was, of course, a long time member of the Southern Association. What is little known is that the city also had a team in the Cotton States League early in the season. This team played 24 games before transferring to Yazoo City.

Mel Parnell pitched for Canton in the Middle Atlantic League in 1942, his second year in the minors. On August 31, he pitched a complete 18 inning game against Zanesville, winning 5-4. He almost won his own game in the 17th. He led off the inning with a single and went to second on a sacrifice. The next batter laced a single, but Mel was thrown out at the plate.

The 1940 Nashville Vols, pennant winners of the Southern Association, did not have much need for a bench. The infield of Mickey Rocco, John Mihalic, Bob Boken and Dick Culler played 148, 147, 149 and 152 games, respectively. The outfield of Gus Dugas (145 G) Oris Hockett (130 G) and Arnold Moser (149 G) was almost as durable. Even their first string catcher, Charlie George got in 120 games.

Bob Riesener, pitching for Alexandria in the Evangeline League in 1957, won 20 games and lost none.

Fred Toney, the future major league star, pitched a 17 inning no hitter for Winchester of the Blue Grass League on May 10, 1909. He struck out 19 Lexington batters. John Lower of Waco, Texas League tossed a one-hitter on May 10, 1905. The only hit came in the first inning and the game ended in a scoreless tie after 15 innings. Thus, Lower pitched 14 innings of hitless ball.

Ben Mateosky played his first game in the American Association on August 18, 1957 and hit home runs in his first two at bats.

Consecutive Game Playing Streak Record

Bob Hoie writes (again) that the consecutive game playing streak record holder is known. It is Perry Lipe. There is a problem though. The *Little Red Book*, starting with the 1923 edition, credits Perry with 1136 games from 1903 to 1911. *The Story Of Minor League Baseball*, published in 1952, gives him 1304 games from 1903 to 6/16/13. Perry's obituary in a 1955 edition of *The Sporting News* credited him with 1127 games from 9/11/02 to 8/26/11. This will make an interesting research project for one of our committee members.

New Job

Joe McEacharn took over as president of the Eastern League on January 1, succeeding Bill Troubh. The league office will remain in Portland, Maine. McEacharn had been the assistant to the president since 1996.

Georgia Research

Paul Steeley, a new Committee member, is planning to do some research on baseball in Newnan and LaGrange, Georgia. These clubs were in the Georgia State League in the 1920' s and the Georgia-Alabama League from the late 1920' s to the 1950' s.

The 1905 Ohio-Pennsylvania League

The Ohio-Pennsylvania League of 1905 started the season as an independent league. The National Association (governing body of the minor leagues) labeled it an outlaw league due to the fact that there were several players in the league who had jumped contracts with minor league clubs.

It appears that the clubs did not play a set schedule. At least 21 clubs were in the league at one time or another. Also, it seems that the clubs played many exhibition games against outside independent clubs. The *Pittsburgh Post* carried box scores of both league and exhibition games. The *Post* carried standings for several minor leagues in the general area, but it never carried the standings for the OH-PA League. The *Post* referred to the league several times as the Protective Association of Baseball Clubs.

The league had a conference with the National Association on July 20. As a result, the next afternoon it was admitted to the National Association as a Class C league. *Sporting Life* carried an article in which it listed the players "under contract and accepted" for each

club. The clubs were Akron, Lancaster, Massillon, Mount Vernon, Newark, Niles, Youngstown and Zanesville in Ohio and Braddock, Homestead, McKeesport and Sharon in Pennsylvania.

Sporting Life carried league standings from its August 5 edition (thru games of 7/24) thru the end of the season. The standings given the first week did not include Braddock or McKeesport. The total wins were 277 and the total losses were 242. The assumption would be that the difference of 35 more wins than losses could be accounted for by the records of the clubs that had dropped out. However, the difference jumps all over during the balance of the season. The difference is 55 in week 2, 73 in week 3, 47 in week 4, 79 in week 5, 90 in week 6, 88 in week 7, 91 in week 8, and 79 in the final standings. It is useless to try to figure out what was going on from these weekly standings.

A note in the August 19 edition of *Sporting Life* stated that Mount Vernon was dropping out and that it was the fifth club to fold. The others were Lima, Bucyrus, Canton and Massillon.

The September 9 edition of *Sporting Life* stated that the league was organizing for the following season. "The clubs proposed for admission to the new league are Akron, Canton, Youngstown, Zanesville, Homestead, Sharon, Braddock and McKeesport, the best in the present league except Niles".

The above two articles do not seem to agree with known movement of clubs.

Two big questions are raised as a result of the situation in the 1905 OH-PA League. When a league joins the National Association during the season, should league won-loss records start at the time that the league joined? Should player statistics start on the effective date? Ray Nemecek has expressed his opinion, that he would like to see two sets of stats, one for the pre-14A league and one for after joining. Jerry Jackson feels strongly that nothing prior to the league becoming a member of the NA should count. Jerry points out that after joining the NA the league was subject to a completely different set of rules regarding payrolls, player signings, etc.

Regarding the 1905 OH-PA League, more research is required. We ask all committee members with access to newspapers in any of the league cities to do some digging. See the additional article below by Jim Holl on this league.

Two Versions of Final 1905 OH-PA League Standings

| | <i>Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball</i> | | | <i>Sporting Life</i> | | |
|--------------|--|----------|-------------|----------------------|----------|-------------|
| | <u>W</u> | <u>L</u> | <u>Pct.</u> | <u>W</u> | <u>L</u> | <u>Pct.</u> |
| Youngstown | 88 | 35 | .615 | 84 | 32 | .724 |
| Akron | 66 | 42 | .611 | 64 | 39 | .600 |
| Zanesville | 51 | 36 | .586 | 59 | 37 | .615 |
| Niles | 52 | 37 | .584 | 58 | 37 | .611 |
| Braddock | 23 | 22 | .511 | 24 | 24 | .500 |
| Washington | 3 | 3 | .500 | | | |
| Lancaster | 36 | 37 | .493 | 35 | 37 | .486 |
| Homestead | 29 | 32 | .475 | 31 | 34 | .477 |
| Newark | 37 | 46 | .446 | 36 | 43 | .456 |
| Sharon | 29 | 39 | .426 | 27 | 34 | .443 |
| McKeesport | 20 | 27 | .426 | 10 | 28 | .263 |
| Mount Vernon | 16 | 24 | .400 | | | |
| Massillon | 26 | 41 | .388 | | | |
| Canton | 19 | 40 | .322 | | | |
| Lima | 2 | 6 | .250 | | | |
| Bucyrus | 5 | 12 | .294 | | | |
| Butler | 1 | 7 | .125 | | | |
| Steubenville | 1 | 7 | .125 | | | |
| Wooster | 0 | 2 | .000 | | | |
| Barberton | 0 | 3 | .000 | | | |
| Kent | 0 | 6 | .000 | | | |
| Totals | 504 | 504 | .500 | 427 | 348 | |

Several people who did research on this league were contacted. Jim Holl sent the following excellent article.

"Fifty Bucks and a Ball Club" (The 1905 Ohio - Pennsylvania League)

By James P. Holl, North Canton, Ohio, August, 1993

The 1905 Ohio-Pennsylvania League was one of those obscure circuits which contributed mightily to the minors' reputation of "bush league". All of the negative connotations of poorly run, under capitalized clubs coupled with a disorganized laissez faire approach to league administration came together to make the 1905 season one easy to forget. Twenty one towns claimed O-P membership at one time or another during the campaign. A majority never made it to the end.

President Charles Morton undoubtedly meant well when he invited six prospective members to Akron in March 1905 to form the Protective Association of Independent Clubs. His was to be an independent league operating outside of the sanction of the National Association, the governing body for minor league baseball. With a \$50 entry deposit, each club was free to arrange its own schedule of games and hire its own umpire for home dates. The league charter gave Morton' s primary responsibilities as monitoring player contracts and settling disputes between clubs.

The Protective Association was only too eager to accommodate newcomers and by the official start of the season on May 1 eleven clubs had plunked down their entry dues - Youngstown, Akron, Canton, Massillon, Niles, Newark, Mount Vernon and Zanesville in Ohio and Sharon, Braddock and Homestead in Pennsylvania.

Lancaster joined on May 7 and a week later McKeesport entered the fold. The McKeesport entry was originally "blacklisted" and other Protective Association (PA) clubs ordered not to schedule games with the Pennsylvania club which was accused of harboring a player, Andrew Brookwaller, who was under contract to the Braddock club. On May 14, McKeesport relented, released Brookwaller, paid its \$50 fee and became a PA member in good standing.

The widely scattered teams and unique scheduling arrangements made for an uneven number of games between league members. Teams played most of their games against nearby opponents and seldom ventured far without assurances of a financially worthwhile trip. Thus, clubs in larger cities like Akron and Youngstown were able to play a majority of their games before hometown fans and local umpires. President Morton inveighed against this practice, calling for better paid traveling umpires to reduce charges of favoritism and the inevitable fights that ensued.

Notwithstanding the problems created by geographic dispersion across two states, the league continued to expand, adding Lima and Bucyrus from the cornfields of western Ohio. Neither of these clubs lasted long. Lima, citing the heavy burden of an \$800 a month team payroll, threw in the towel on June 27 after only eight games. Bucyrus, which insisted on playing only Sunday home games, could not find many opponents willing to take the trip west for an uncertain gate, quit on July 11.

But others were always ready to jump in. Steubenville joined the league on July 1, followed by Washington (Pennsylvania) and Kent on July 11. After beating upon local town teams from places like Atwater and Rootstown, Kent decided to test the PA waters. They found the opposition somewhat stiffer, going 0-7 before bowing out on August 6.

The musical chairs game continued through the summer. Canton, saddled with a last place team, withdrew on July 15 when the city inherited the Ft. Wayne Central League franchise. Massillon, losing its nearby rival and chief gate attraction in Canton, lasted until July 26. Teams from Barberton, Wooster and Butler had such short stays in the league it is almost impossible to find out the exact dates when they came and left.

President Morton was not dissuaded however in his attempts to give greater stability and respectability to the circuit. On July 21, he successfully petitioned the National Association for acceptance as an officially recognized minor league. The organization was renamed the Ohio-Pennsylvania League with fifteen charter members - Akron, Youngstown, Wiles, Zanesville, Lancaster, Newark, Mount Vernon, Massillon and Canton (Ohio) and Homestead, Sharon, McKeesport, Braddock, Washington and Butler (Pennsylvania). (see Note 1)

As conditions of acceptance, the National Association agreed to rescind the "outlaw" status of players who had signed with the non-recognized independent clubs and waive National League objections to placement of the Braddock and Homestead clubs, which were within five miles of Pittsburgh.

Ten teams eventually finished the season in September and were counted in the final standings. Youngstown was declared the 1905 O-P League champion. The Youngstown final record varies according to the source used. The *Reach Guide* (1906) credits Youngstown with an 84-32 won-lost record where the *Spalding Guide* of the same year lists a 90-35 record. *The Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball* (1993) tells a third story, giving Youngstown an 88-35 mark. The differences may be attributed to the incomplete game scoring sheets filed with the league office or counting of post-season exhibition games or other games against non-league teams. Other O-P clubs had similar widely differing records. Individual player records were never published, making a complete review of the 1905 O-P League season a baseball researchers nightmare.

The O-P League settled down in subsequent years, shedding clubs to help form smaller, more competitive circuits such as the Pennsylvania-Ohio-Maryland League (1906), Western Pennsylvania League (1907) and Ohio State League (1908). But back in 1905, anyone with \$50 and nine ball players was welcome to try their luck in the growing, small town professional version of the "national pastime".

Note 1. An article in the *Akron Beacon-Journal* (July 22, 1905) lists fourteen teams joining the new league: Akron, Massillon, Kent, Mount Vernon, Zanesville, Newark, Lancaster, Steubenville, Wiles, Youngstown, Sharon, Braddock, Homestead and McKeesport.

Miscellaneous

Pete Morris sent a copy of a page from a publication entitled *Sportlife*, July, 1924 edition. The feature story is the pros and cons of Pacific Coast stars flopping in the majors and ex-major league players coming to the PCL and flopping.

There was a story in a 1991 edition of *USA Today Baseball Weekly* about a player who scored three runs in an inning. Denver Howard wrote to the author of the story and pointed out a more unusual feat. The Mattoon Phillies of the Midwest League, in a game against Michigan City on August 28, 1956, scored 19 runs in the first inning. TWO players, Bill Jonletz and Charlie Randall, each scored three runs.

Frank Wetzel, playing for Flint in the 1920 Michigan-Ontario League, had 22 hits in his last 23 AB for the season. His hits included 8 doubles, 7 triples and 2 homers. This calculates to a .957 batting average and a 2.043 slugging average. The streak started with two games on September 6 and continued thru September 12. He was hitting .354 prior to the streak. The streak raised his average to .387, good enough to lead the league. This information was obtained from the 9/20 edition of the *Toronto Daily Mail & Empire* and was attributed to E. J. Stein, league statistician. The information was verified in the 9/30 edition of *TSN*.

Bob Hoie likes to track wins by minor league managers. He has come up with a twist to his project. Woody Huyke had the best season last year of his 29 year managing career (27 years in the Gulf Coast Lg.). His career record now stands at 710 wins and 1009 losses for a percentage of .413. Bob is fairly sure that this is worst record for any manager with 1500 games managed.

The late Willie George donated his baseball material to SABR and it is stored in the archives at Western Reserve in Cleveland. Willie had an extensive collection of player career records. Several appeals have been made to inventory this material. To date, there is no inventory. Any volunteers?

On May 8, 1945, Mike Skaff of Baltimore, International League had 4 H, 3 R, 1 2B, 2 HR and 6 RBI. His brother, Frank, had 3 H, 4 R, 2 HR and 5 RBI. Not bad for one family. In Frank's two previous games (a doubleheader on 5/6), he had 3 homers and 7 RBI.

When the 2003 baseball season rolls around, you can be on the lookout for some new names and new teams in the minors, mostly due to franchise shifts. San Bernardino of the California League is changing its name from Stampede to Inland Empire 66ers of San Bernardino. Try fitting that on a uniform shirt! The longest move will be in the Pacific Coast League with one of the leagues most northern outposts, Calgary, moving a thousand miles south to Albuquerque. The Columbus (GA) Red Stixx of the South Atlantic League are moving to the Cleveland suburb of Eastlake and will be known as the Lake County Captains. The Texas League will become more Texan with the Shreveport (LA) club going to a Dallas suburb and being called the Frisco Rough Riders. This article was excerpted from the November, 2002 edition of *Baseball News*.

The Cleveland farm system had the best collective W-L record in 2002 with 408 wins and 299 losses for a .577 percentage. Pittsburgh was second with .571 and Los Angeles was third with .563. Baltimore brought up the rear with .434.

A quote from Casey Stengel, "Old timers games are great. It's wonderful meeting so many old friends that I didn't used to like."

The 1930 Fort Wayne club of the Central League had a team batting average of .337 with 207 home runs. The six team league had a collective batting average of .308 with only one team below .300.

Bob McConnell has recently been in touch with Ed Musial. Ed is a younger brother of Stan. He recently celebrated his eightieth birthday and he resides in Monongahela, PA. Although he never made the majors, he had a decent minor league career. His totals are 471 G, 1627 AB, 341 R, 487 H, 60 2B, 28 3B, 23 HR, 188RBI, 67 SB and an average of .299. Ray Nemecek supplied two "Less Than 10 Game" lines for his record and this dropped his average from .300 to .299. Shame on you. Ray!

Joe Naiman is doing research on Pete Jernigan, a former minor league player. At one time, Pete was a candidate to replace Ted Williams in the Red Sox outfield. Joe hopes to interview Jernigan at the upcoming San Diego regional meeting.

Joe Naiman sent an interesting article on Dr. John Hefferon. Dr. Hefferon was the team doctor for the Chicago Bulls for twelve years starting in 1984. He treated Michael Jordan, Scottie Pippen and other well known basketball players. After graduating from Brown University with a degree in math, Hefferon signed on with the Oakland A's as a pitcher. He played in the A's farm system for four

years. While playing ball in the summer, he attended Northwestern Medical School during the off season. After graduating in 1972, he chose medicine over baseball and he has never regretted his decision.

It was mentioned in the last newsletter that Jimmy Keenan, one of our members, is working on a biography of his grandfather, Jimmy Lyston who played ball for 26 years. Jimmy has sent a roster of the Maryland Oldtimers Baseball Association Hall of Fame. His grandfather was one of the early inductees.

We received an inquiry from Noreen Brantner of the Minor League Alumni Association in January. She wants to know something about SABR and the Minor League Committee. I wrote to her and described our committee and outlined the type of research that we perform. I mentioned that we are interested in contacting former players to obtain information about their careers plus biographical info. From the title of her organization, we assume that she is in contact with many players. I asked her to send some information on her organization. To date, she has not replied. If anyone wishes to contact her, the address is P0 Box A, St. Petersburg, FL 33731, or noreenbrantner@minorleaguebaseball.com

Dick Beverage has passed along the following story. David Salazar is one of three known Pacific Coast League players who have had a grandson make the majors. Dave pitched in one game for San Francisco in 1924 with no decision. He later pitched in the Utah-Idaho, Arizona State and Arizona-Texas Leagues. His grandson, Darrell Evans, was a 21 year veteran of the majors. Darrell was taken under the wing of his grandfather at an early age. The grandfather must have done a pretty good job. Darrell finished his career with over 400 homers and over 1,300 RBI. The other two combinations were triple plays. Grandfather Ray, father Bob and son Brett Boone all played in the PCL as well as in the majors. Add another grandson, Aaron, who is in the majors but never played in the PCL. The three generation Bell family had grandfather Gus playing in the PCL. Son Buddy and grandson David played in the majors, but not in the PCL.

Tony Szabelski sent an interesting article on Andy Strong. Andy was playing for the Crowley Millers in an Evangeline League game on June 16, 1951. The game was suspended for a period due to a thunderstorm. When the storm let up, play resumed. Andy took his position in center field at the beginning of the sixth inning. A sudden bolt of lightning hit Andy and he went down. Policemen and a doctor rushed out to him, but he was already dead. Strong's wife and six month old child were en route to Crowley at the time with plans to join Andy. The State Highway Patrol intercepted the wife and gave her the sad news.

Gene Wood has called our attention to another long service minor leaguer who never played in the majors. Bill Thomas is known to have pitched for 24 years between 1926 and 1952 (not in OB in 1930, 1947 & 1948). Thomas pitched in 1016 games, with 5995 innings, 383 wins and 347 losses. These are all minor league records. His career playing record is in *The Minor League Register*. Take a look at it and see if you can add anything.

Sean Byam points out that Russ Snyder played in 3 games for Birmingham, Southern Association in 1954. He went 4 for 11 during the period from April 7 to 14. This line is not included in Snyder's record in *the Baseball Register* or *Who's Who*. This was picked up by checking the National Association contract record. This emphasizes the importance of checking contract records when compiling player career records.

Blue Grass League

The June, 2002 newsletter mentioned that Tom Chase has compiled data on the 1908-12 Blue Grass League. Tom has added data to his compilation and he has also compiled data on the 1922-24 Blue Grass League. The latest compilation includes league standings (official and unofficial), roster of players and number of games at each fielding position, playing span for all players (1st to last game played) and Games Started and Complete Games for pitchers. For the 1923 season, there are complete batting, fielding and pitching stats for all players.

Albert "Happy" Chandler played in the league in 1922 and 1923. Tom sent his day-by-day stats. In 1922, he was in 3 games (1 PH & 2 SS) with 5 AB, 0 R, 1 H, 0 2B, 0 3B, 0 HR, 0 SB, 3 P0, 3 A, 1 E. In 1923, he was in 8 games (1 LF, 1 SS, 6 3B) with 23 AB, 2R, 4 H, 0 2B, 0 3B, 1 HR, 0 SB, 5 P0, 8 A, 6 E. He also umpired in 20 games in 1923, one before his last game as a player and the balance after he finished playing.

Fourth Quarter and Year End 2002 Progress Report - Minor League Statistics Report

By Lloyd Johnson, Kansas City MO, January 27, 2003

Baseball Season starts in January

Wahoo, baseball season is finally upon us. The KC Star sent a sportswriter to Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic to cover Latin League contests. The writers hung out with Tony Pena who is very well known on the islands. Our paper has been running stories about the Royals and the Northern League T-Bones since mid-December. We have confidence that the T-Royals are better than the T-Bones. Thus I renewed my \$5/seat season tickets. These are on the rail in the upper deck; great seats.

Museum Note

Director Dave Chase wears two hats these days. He is the President and General Manager of the Memphis Redbirds for the 2003 season. What does this mean to the Statistics Project? One thing for sure, it gives us time for additional data input and scanning.

Winter Meetings Note

Dave Chase hosted a lunch with Tom Kaiser, president of the Texas League, Kevin McCann, who is putting together a KITTY league reunion this summer, Dick Beverage, who is running for SABR president, and assorted others. The three-hour get together featured tales of baseball research.

Many things are happening in baseball and to baseball by outside forces. I feel that nobody knows the outcome. Seymour Siwoff told me that he ate lunch regularly with Bart Giamatti. Bart became infatuated with the answer to the question: Will there be baseball 100 years from now? I have guessed that most of the nineteenth century players and owners, the exception of Charlie Ebbetts, never thought baseball would continue. Giamatti rationalized that there is no compelling reason for baseball to exist.

Our winter message is: Find a reason for Baseball. Today it is similar to a religious ritual, but will it continue?

***Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball* update**

Miles and I are almost back to square one, trying to find a publisher. We are pretty picky, but the Museum may not be able to publish the Encyclopedia in 2003. We want to have it out in 2003, so we are pursuing other options.

The update will likely take more than one month that I allotted, therefore we are planning to have the book (complete with 2003 stats) ready for the Christmas 2003 season. We are starting to collect update data now. Those of you, Marc Okkonen and Kevin McCann, who have updated information please send it to me now through e-mail or snail mail.

We have a large folder of information that you have already sent to me, Miles, or Baseball America. In a later StatReport, I shall list the Encyclopedia update data that we possess.

[Editor's Note: A perfect *Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball* should be the dream of all Minor League Committee members. Of course, this dream is unrealistic. Never-the-less, we should strive to make the encyclopedia as accurate as possible. There are many blanks and a number of errors in the 2nd edition. This is by no means a criticism of the editors; the minor leagues cover a wide field and some information is hard to come by. We urge all committee members to make notes on additions and corrections to the 2nd edition and send copies to Miles Wolff at 6804 Knotty Pine Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27514 and Lloyd Johnson, 205W 66th Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64113; lloydj@msn.com]

Report on the project

Since this is Progress Report number 17, it means that we are completing the fourth year on the Minor League Statistics Project.

Second phase is first names and biographical. For the biographical, we discovered that the Minor League Digests after 1948-49 can be scanned. This we plan to do in 2003. The Digests have height, weight, bats and throws, first year, birth year, and military status. What they do not have is the exact birth date.

The checking process will take many moons at the player card files at the Hall of Fame and the Sporting News. The National Pastime: Museum of Minor League Baseball has a set of cards as does Ray Nemecek.

Database Plans for 2003

After checking and assembling the batting and pitching data, the Museum may produce an Alpha version of the database available for researchers on this project. It will be an Access database. Thus, it is important to affirm your relationship to the Statistics Project as the public will pay for access to the data while contributors will get a very, good deal.

Database availability is not yet set.

Reserve List Mini-Project

The Reserve List project is 2/3 finished and is helpful enough to warrant completing. Below is a list of years in which we need volunteers to complete the file. Unfortunately, only the hard-to-read lists remain. We did this project like construction work, do the easiest first, and maybe something will happen to prevent you from doing the hard part. This was not the case. We are stuck with the toughies.

1893, 1898, 1906, 1910-1915, 1917, 1923, 1926, 1929, 1931, 1934, 1935, and so on

If anyone wants to help finish this project, contact me. All participants get a copy of the finished product-computerized reserve lists.

Leagues without statistics

This time-consuming part of the project is on-going, however, I am not concentrating on it, at this moment. We are pushing hard to get numbers into the computer so that the checking process can begin. Afterwards, we may need a contest to see you can turn in the most corrections and additions.

Work still continues, on an individual basis, for the leagues without published statistics.

Roster of Contributors

Please look over the list of contributors, if you know of any corrections, let me know. This is the official list.

Researchers who have contributed statistics are:

Jamie Selko 1922-1927; Carlos Bauer, 1857-1899, and many California and Chicago leagues; David Black 1890s Colorado leagues; Mike Welsh, 1896; Sharon Lundy 1895-98 Kansas State leagues; Tom Kayser, 1898 Texas; Jerry Jackson, 1904; Davis Barker, 1915 Central Texas, 1911-1912 Tex-OK, 1905 & 1907 North Texas, 1925 Texas Assn, 1921-1922 West Texas, 1916 East Texas, 1902 Texas League; Tom Stillman, 1906-1907; Terrence O' Brien, 1907 Maine State League; DaniePapillon, 1912; Ray Nemeec 1912 Blue Grass, 1917 Northern, 1942 Evangeline and many more leagues; Jim Sandoval, 1919; Dave Chase, 1911 NE Ark and 1923 Cotton States; Mike Hothan, 1928; Neil Nelson, 1931, 1932; Walter LeConte, 1933; Alain Usereau, 1948; Chuck Partington, 1949; Amy Randall 1962 and 1970; Arthur Knight, 1967, 1969; Gary Pearce 1968; Janet Ebner, 1973; Jason Christopherson, 1980; Evelyn Krache Morris, 1983.

Notable contributions have been made by the following persons:

Ron Selter, PCL (1903-1957), WTNM, Longhorn and Big State stats

Arthur Knight, AAA & AA leagues, 1962-1969

Marshall Wright, American Assn and International, 1903-1957

Sean Forman, major league statistics

W. C. Madden, All-American Girls Professional League

Carlos Bauer, PCL biographical data 1903-1957

Ed Rose, Interstate League data

Rich Bozzone, Newspaper clippings

Bob Hoie, Unpublished League Statistics

Tom Chase, Blue Grass information

Jimmy Keenan, Newspaper clippings

Bob Rives, Newspaper clippings

David Skinner, Newspaper clippings

Joe Murphy, Newspaper clippings

Marc Okkonen, Newspaper clippings

Bob Bailey, Newspaper clippings

Bob McConnell, less than 10 at-bats and 45 innings pitched

Miles Wolff, *Minor League Digest* (several years)

Tom Hufford, *Minor League Digest*, 1943

John Pardon, Hall of Fame research

Scott Fiesthumel, Hall of Fame research and Utica

G. Reed Howard, nineteenth century rosters and data

Tom Kayser, Texas league data

Kevin McCann, Kitty League data

Tom Stillman, first name research

Rene Lang, database software consultant

Mark Stallard, Zip-file translations

Ray Nemeec, Unpublished league stats, and ongoing museum consultant

Reserve List contributors include:

John Bell, 1916

Amy Essington, 1920

Bob Bailey, 1918, 1919, 1921, 1928

Alain Usereau, 1922

David Chase, 1924

Mike Shaw, 1925

Will Christensen, 1927

David Hallstrom, 1932

J. Atticus Ryan, 1933