

SABR MINOR LEAGUE COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2005

From: John Schleppi, Chair, Minor League Committee,
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Editor's note: Thanks to all who have answered questions sent their way during the year. This certainly fulfills SABR's research goal and aids in its public relations image.

The members of the Minor League Committee have done and continue to do outstanding research and compilation.

If there are any ideas as to what future research and/or publications the committee can initiate, please send them to me and we can get it out to the membership and hopefully underway.

MINOR LEAGUE NOTES:

In 2005, the Dayton Dragons (MWL) began their sixth consecutive season of selling every seat for every game before the season began (excluding lawn sales). The team averages over 8000 fans per game. Has any other franchise done this previously?

Columbia, SC moved to Greenville, SC in the SAL just prior to the season opening and became the Greenville Bombers. Greenville hopes to be in a new downtown stadium in 2006.

Will Hagerstown, MD (SAL) relocate for 2006?

The West Michigan Whitecaps (MWL) will play Ft. Wayne on Monday August 22, 2005 in Detroit's Comerica Park.

There are a great number of major-minor league affiliation changes this season—check the minor league website for complete up-dates.

If you are traveling this summer, there are new parks in Greensboro, NC; Stockton, CA; Pearl, MS; Manchester, NH; Charleston, WV; Orem, UT; Corpus Christi, TX; and Springfield, MO.

Name changes this year include the Potomac Nationals (Carolina League), Greensboro Grasshoppers (SAL), Modesto Nuts (CAL), and Southwest Michigan Devil Rays (MWL)

Those interested in the American Association's history, be sure to contact Rex Hamann at Pureout@msn.com for a subscription to the A. A. Almanac

While John Vander Meer is the only major leaguer to pitch back-to-back no-hitters, the July, 2005 issue of *At The Yard* notes it has occurred three times in the minors. These are Palatka Redlegs Mickey Mattiace, Vancouver Canadien Tom Drees, and Bristol Twins Bill Bell; all since 1950.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE NOTES:

Bangor, ME returned its franchise to the Can-Am League and operates as a road team known as the "Grays," for the 2005 season. However, the Grays are the home team (batting last) when playing away where Bangor would have been the home team.

Tijuana dropped out of the newly-formed California-based Golden League before the season began. The vacant spot was filled by the Samurai Bears, a Japanese team that will be a road team for the season.

The two former Texas League franchises now in the Central League are at opposite ends of the attendance count. By June, El Paso had drawn over 110,000 patrons while Shreveport just over 25,000 fans

Winnipeg led the Northern League in attendance, while the two new Canadian entries in Calgary and Edmonton were near the bottom. It evidently takes time to adjust from AAA level to independent fare.

Wayne Terwilliger, the octogenarian manager of the Ft. Worth Cats, is due to manage the Central League All-Stars versus the Can-Am League All-Stars in Brockton, MA in July.

The new franchise in the Atlantic League, the Lancaster Barnstormers, is averaging over 5300 per home opening.

Worcester, MA (Can-Am) Fitton Field on the Holy Cross College Campus is the site of Ted Williams first at bat in an exhibition game in the north in April, 1939. The New York Times has an archival photo of this at bat.

The independent leagues continue to send a number of players on to organized baseball, many to the double A level. At the same time many experienced players try to extend their careers. Some of the familiar names include Pete Rose, jr. with the Long Island Ducks of the Atlantic League. He was hitting in the mid-.250s in June 2005, while John Rocker was 0-2 with the same club. Ricky Henderson, in his thirtieth year of professional baseball, had played in nearly all of the San Diego's (Golden) games and was hitting over .300. Dennis "Oil Can" Boyd returned to Brockton (Can-Am) and lost his first start to New Jersey. "The Boys of Summer" soldier on.

RESEARCH:

From John Zajc at the national office in Cleveland:

For the first time in its history, the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR) will be offering monetary grants to baseball researchers to assist them in carrying out their research.

Thanks to the generosity of the Anthony A. Yoseloff Foundation, SABR will begin a two-year program in which it will award \$4,000 in baseball grants each year.

While not a prerequisite, it is hoped that the grants will help younger and/or less established baseball researchers make their mark. The two main requirements for the grant are that the researcher be a SABR member, and that the end product of the research be published by SABR. The application deadline for the first year of the grants is August 20, 2005.

For more information on how to apply for a Yoseloff-SABR Baseball Grant, see <http://tinyurl.com/acgc6> or contact the SABR office
Cleveland OH 44115
216.575.0500
www.sabr.org

David Malamut is frantically looking for help with the data base. Contact him at david@malamut.net

PUBLICATIONS:

The Texas League's Greatest Hits by Tom Kayser and David King.
Trinity University Press, San Antonio
\$45.00 hardback, 19.95 paper

Baseball in Toledo by John Husman
Available from the author (\$22.00 post paid)
5960 Indian Trail, Sylvania OH 43560-2230
Or
jhusman@buckeye-express.com

2006 Vintage American Association Wall Calendar is available from
Rex Hamann, 14201 Crosstown Blvd. NW, Andover, Minn. 55304-3311
Or e-mail at Pureout@msn.com Cost is \$25.00 post paid.

PLEASE SEND INFORMATION from your area minor league or independent team for the newsletter, as well as research needs or finds---or anything you deem noteworthy for the newsletter

All the Best