

SABR MINOR LEAGUE COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2005

From: John Schleppe, Chair, Minor League Committee
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GENERAL: The Minor League Committee meeting was well attended at the Toronto convention in August. Some significant areas of discussion included:

- The Minor League Hall of Fame appears on hold due to the illness of the director
- The revision of the Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball is still in progress
- Bill McMahon can still use help with his compilation of major-minor league affiliations
- Bob McConnell has proposed and will need help with a fourth volume of minor league stars. It was also thought a separate volume to include the statistics of the players of the combined four volumes be published.
- The newsletter will include material from the independent leagues

MINOR LEAGUE NOTES:

Joe Bauman, famed 1954 home run hitter with 72 homers at Roswell NM, died in that same city this past summer

Look for some league reorganizing at the A level in 2006. The Gulf Coast and Arizona Leagues appear destined to be eliminated. The NYP, Pioneer and Northwest leagues will expand their schedules. There will be thirty teams, one affiliate per major league team. The Appalachian League status is uncertain—it may become a coop league with “extra” players from various organizations supplying the Appy teams. There may be an expansion of the autumn season in Arizona to aid player development

Ottawa (I L) appears to be staying in that city as they have announced their 2006 schedule. There had been thoughts of their moving to another city due to marginal attendance

There is correction/addition to the last newsletter. AT THE YARD reported three pitchers with back to back no hitters, all since 1950. Jack Carlson of the Dayton chapter found Clarence E. Wright notched back to back no-hitters in 1901.

Pitching for the Dayton Vets he no-hit the Columbus Senators 9-0 in Dayton on September 1st. On September 4,^{t,h} he beat Grand Rapids 2-0 in Dayton. This was in the Western Association

In the NYP, State College, PA will replace New Jersey (Augusta, NJ) and play at a new stadium, Medlar Field, at Labrano Park. The 6000 seat facility will be shared with the Penn State University team. The New Jersey stadium may be leveled for a shopping mall.

The Lowell Spinners (NYP) have had sell-out crowds for every game in all of their six years of membership in the League

Also, the Dayton Dragons (MWL) have played to capacity in their six years in the MWL

Toledo's Mud Hens (I L), the minor's counterpart to the Chicago Cubs in national interest, went from "worst" (65-78) in 2004 to "first" (89-55) in 2005 to win their first championship since 1967---The minor league website will give you all the league champions for 2005

Again the minor leagues set a collective attendance record. 176 teams in 15 leagues drew 41,333,279 fans. The number would have been higher had not late season storms affected several southern teams

Member John Pardon sent a copy of the BASEBALL NEWS which covers minor league baseball. Published ten times per year, it is a \$12.00 subscription. Contact BASEBALL NEWS, PO Box A, St .Petersburg, FL 33731 or 727.822.6937 no e-mail given

Charlotte (I L) had twenty former players spread among the eight AL -NL post season teams

See a great issue on Kansas City's Muehlebach Field in Rex Hamann's American Association Almanac for Autumn 2005. Anyone wishing to review that issue contact Rex. at e-mail www.AmericanAssociationAlmanac.com

Also, Rex notes the American Association Calendar for 2006 is ready for the price of \$25.00

Mexico has a new fall league---The Norocite---which includes Compostela, Tuxpan, Acaponeta, Tecuala, Santiago and Tepic.

With the present popularity of the minor leagues and their teams---what will/should be done to sustain this interest? Note their ticket prices are becoming increasingly higher in general. Will the public continue to support the game? Any readers thoughts in this area?

INDEPENDENT LEAGUES:

League champions included Kalamazoo over Chillicothe in the Frontier League, San Diego winning the Golden League, Somerset, NJ winning the Atlantic League for the third time in the League's eight year existence. Former Yankee pitcher Sparky Lyle managed the Patriots, and the Gary (I N) Railcats won the Northern League crown. In the Central League, 80 year old Wayne Terwilliger managed the Ft. Worth Cats to the championship. He is believed the oldest manager to win a title in organized baseball. Worcester, MA won the Can-Am league in their first year of membership.

Ricky Henderson, playing for San Diego in the Golden League was featured in the article "Stealing Time" in the September 12, 2005 issue of THE NEW YORKER magazine

There was a great amount of movement at the close of the various league seasons, these include:

In the Frontier League, Richmond IN, will move to Traverse City, MI in 2006 and play in a new stadium

Also in the F L, Mid-Missouri (Columbia, MO) has withdrawn –they hope for a new park in Columbia or another city

The Ohio Valley Red Cats, the traveling team of the F L, has folded and will not play in Lorain, OH in 2006 as hoped. Thus the F L plans to operate with ten teams in 2006

The Golden League, based in California, added the Reno, NV Silver Sox for 2006 and they will play on the UN-Reno campus at Peccole Park

The biggest change is in the reformation of the American Association, with Mike Veeck and Miles Wolff leading the way. Four teams, St. Paul, Sioux City, Sioux Falls and Lincoln withdrew from the Northern League. They then combined with five teams from the Central League: Ft. Worth, Shreveport, El Paso, Pensacola and Coastal Bend to form the new American Association. A tenth team to be added shortly. It will play a 96 game schedule commencing in May 2006. It will play its all star game against the Can-Am League, as Wolff is also commissioner of that league.

The Northern League will function with eight teams and the Central league has folded

All the Best and send any items for the newsletter you would like to see included in the next issue

