

MINOR LEAGUE COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2006

FROM: John Schleppe, Chair, Minor League Committee
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This issue includes notes from both minor and independent teams and leagues. There are also articles by members commenting on aspects of the minor and independent leagues.

I will be leaving the chairmanship of the Minor League Committee after the St. Louis Convention. Anyone interested in the position should contact the national SABR office in Cleveland.

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General and Research needs:

- Skip Nipper maintains a website on old teams and leagues in the Nashville area. Contact him at www.sulphurdell.com
- The 2007 Southern Association Conference will be held in late February or early March. Contact David Brewer at d.brewer@rickwood.com for updates.
- David Malamut is still working on his minor league data base. Contact him at <http://malamut.net/minorshome.html>
- Clint Chafin of Moultrie, GA continues his search for players, administrators, and anyone associated with the old Georgia-Florida, Georgia-Alabama, Georgia State, Alabama State, or Alabama-Florida Leagues. Clint's number is 229.985.9723. Scott Parks also has a related website at www.alabama-florida-league.com

- Steve Smith of the Field of dreams chapter, is researching the Florida International League (1946-54). Any others wishing to share interest and/or research can contact Steve at SSmith@aol.com
- Rex Hamann is again doing the new (2007) American Association wall Calendar. Contact Rex at PUREOUT@MSN.COM. Cost is \$25.00 and is always a standout production.
- Phil Lowry is seeking any info from committee members on minor league doubleheaders that have lasted 25 innings or more. So far, he has found many in the majors, but only these few in the minor leagues. Contact him at plowry1176@aol.com if you can add to this list please. Thank you very much.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION (2)

27 innings – Charleston, WV - 7/21/1957 – Charleston Senators/Wichita Braves.

31 innings – Louisville, KY – 7/4/1959 – Louisville Colonels/Dallas Rangers

CAROLINA LEAGUE (1)

26 innings – Lynchburg, VA – 8/8/1966 – Kinston Eagles/Lynchburg White Sox.

CENTRAL LEAGUE (1)

28 innings – Evansville, IN – 7/4/1907 – Terre Haute Hottentots/Evansville River Rats.

DIXIE ASSOCIATION (1)

27 innings – Little Rock, AR – 8/7/1971 – Jacksonville Suns/Arkansas Travelers

EASTERN LEAGUE (3)

29 innings – Albany, NY - 5/30/1924 – Pittsfield Hillies/Albany Empires.

26 innings – Hartford, CT – 5/11/1948 – Hartford Chiefs/Elmira Pioneers.

27 innings – Johnson City, NY – 5/18/1952 – Binghamton Triplets/Scranton Miners.

FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE (3)

25 innings – Daytona Beach, FL – 6/21/1966 – Dayt Bch Islanders/Deerfield Beach Sun Sox.

25 innings - Daytona Beach or Miami, FL – 8/18/1970 – Dayt Bch Dodgers/Miami Marlins.

26 innings – Sarasota, FL – 8/8 and 8/25/2005 – Sarasota Reds/Lakeland Tigers.

GEORGIA STATE LEAGUE (1)

25 innings – Eastman, GA - 5/27/1952 – Eastman Dodgers/Jesup Bees.

ILLINOIS-INDIANA-IOWA (3-I) LEAGUE (1)

25 innings – Lincoln, NE – 8/19/1961 – Lincoln Chiefs/Fox Cities Foxes.

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE (4)

27 innings – Columbus, OH – 5/8/1955 – Montreal Royals/Columbus Jets.

25 innings – Miami, FL – 4/22/1956 – Rochester Red Wings/Miami Marlins.

28 innings – Richmond, VA - 8/7/1989 – Toledo Mud Hens/Richmond Braves
 25 innings – Fort Mill, SC – 8/15/2003 – Charlotte Knights/Indianapolis
 Indians.
 MEXICAN PACIFIC LEAGUE (1)
 29 innings – Navojoa, Mexico - 1/2/1979 – Mexicali Aguilas (Eagles)/Navojoa
 Mayos.
 MIDWEST LEAGUE (2)
 30 innings – Waterloo, IA – 5/30/1976 – Burlington Bees/Waterloo Royals.
 28 innings – Geneva, IL – 4/9/2003 – Kane County Cougars/Burlington Bees.
 NEW YORK-PENNSYLVANIA LEAGUE (1)
 27 innings – New York, NY - 7/16 & 8/2/2004 – Staten Island Yanks/New
 Jersey Cards.
 NEW YORK STATE LEAGUE (1)
 27 innings – Wilkes-Barre & Scranton, PA – 5/31/1909 – Scranton Miners/W-B
 Barons.
 NORTH CAROLINA STATE LEAGUE (1)
 34 ½ innings – Raleigh & Durham, NC - 7/5/1915 – Raleigh Capitals/Durham
 Bulls.
 OHIO-PENNSYLVANIA LEAGUE (1)
 27 innings - Mansfield, OH – 7/14/1910 – Canton Deubers/Mansfield Reformers.
 PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE (7)
 28 innings – Emeryville & San Francisco, CA – 6/4/1916 – Oakland Oaks/SF
 Seals.
 31 innings – Emeryville, CA – 5/6/1928 – Sacramento Senators/Oakland Oaks.
 26 innings – Portland, OR – 5/9/1943 – Los Angeles Angels/Portland Beavers.
 26 innings – Los Angeles, CA – ?/??/1948 or 1949 on a Sunday – ??????
 ??????/LA Angels.
 25 innings – San Diego, CA – 7/26/1953 – San Diego Padres/Seattle Rainiers.
 29 innings – Portland, OR – 4/24/1955 – Portland Beavers/San Diego Padres.
 27 innings – Seattle, WA – 5/26/1957 – Vancouver Mounties/Seattle Rainiers.
 SOUTH ATLANTIC (SALLY) LEAGUE (1)
 29 innings – Asheville, NC – between 1960 and 1966 – Knoxville
 Smokies/Asheville Tourists.
 SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION (1)
 26 innings – Atlanta, GA – 7/23/1958 – Atlanta Crackers/Mobile Bears.
 SOUTHERN LEAGUE (3)
 26 innings – Orlando, FL – 5/22/1980 – Orlando Twins/Memphis Chicks.
 26 innings – Greenville, SC – 7/13 & 7/14/1984 – Memphis Chicks/Greenville
 Braves.
 26 innings – Huntsville, AL – 6/10/1990 – Huntsville Stars/Knoxville Blue
 Jays.
 TEXAS LEAGUE (3)
 25 innings – Fort Worth, TX – 7/4/1932 – Longview Cannibals/Fort Worth Cats.
 26 innings – San Antonio, TX – 8/11/1952 – Oklahoma City Indians/San
 Antonio Missions.
 26 innings – San Antonio, TX – 6/19/1961 – Amarillo Gold Sox/San Antonio

Missions.

WESTERN INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE (1)

32 innings – Victoria, BC – 5/5/1951 – Salem Senators/Victoria Athletics

- Bob McConnell is researching.....
Whatever Happened To Good Ol' Emmitt Fulenwider?

Many outstanding minor league players of the past seem to have disappeared without a clue The Biographical Committee is busy tracking down former major league players. However, that committee does not research players who never made the major.

Below is a list of the players who were at least 70 years old at the end of 2004, provided that they were still living. None of these players ever played in the majors. The career records of many of them are included in The Minor League Register. If you have any information on any of these players, send it to Bob McConnell at 210 West Crest Road, Wilmington, DE 19803 or homerbobmcc@aol.com. If the player is still living, that fact alone will be helpful. However, an address or even a city of residence is desirable. If the player is deceased, we need the date and place of death.

	Birth Year	Playing Span
Edward Barbarito	1928	1949-59
Joe Bauman	1922	1941-56
Otto Besse	??	1907-16
Howard Boles	1927	1945-56
Bill Bottenus	1866	1888-07
Rudolph Briner	1917	1939-56
Paul Bruno	1915	1934-51
Glenn Burns	1928	1947-55
Moises Camacho	1932	1953-75
Ben Cantrell	1918	1937-53
Joseph Christian	1931	1949-66
Jerry Crosby	1919	1940-55
Leonard Cross	1927	1943-53
Benjamin Downs	1929	1948-59
Leo Eastham	1918	1938-53
William E. Enos	1919	1939-51
Bob Featherstone	1927	1948-53
Floyd Fogg	1926	1945-54
Emmitt Fulenwider	1915	1937-46
Horace Garner	1925	1951-61
Richard Getter	1928	1947-60

Richard Greco	1925	1946-57
Clarence Hamel	1904	1927-37
Edgar Hartness	1920	1938-55
Harry Heslet	1920	1940-56
Lou Heyman	1923	1946-58
Robert Hobbs	1928	1945-55
Theodore "Jack" Holloway	1899	1921-31
Thomas Crawford Howard	1920	1940-52
William Jackson	1934	1953-63
Leonard Johnston	1929	1952-67
Edward Kallina	1904	1925-30
Kedzi Kirkham	1891	1911-30
Gus Koch	1914	1934-39
James Koranda	1934	1952-65
Albert Kubski	1920	1937-57
Hilly Layne	1918	1938-58
Samuel Lemen	??	1922-32
Douglas Lewis	1923	1946-56
Keith Little	1929	1948-59
Mike Lutz	1927	1948-60
Joe Macko	1928	1948-70
Harold Martin	1919	1940-54
Peter Monahan	1902	1921-40
Robert Montag	1923	1946-59
Edward W. Moore	1929	1949-63
Robert "Barry" Morgan	??	1959-70
Joe Morjoseph	1920	1939-50
Les Mulcahy	1923	1941-53
Robert "Rod" Murphy	1892	1911-30
William "Bade" Myers	??	1896-15
Mike Natisin	1916	1939-52
Albert Neil	1925	1947-54
Ike Palmer	1925	1946-57
Henry "Clay" Parrish	1903	1926-31
Ray Perkins	1882	1903-10
Charles Quimby	1918	1937-53
Bill Raimondi	1913	1931-53
John Reider	1903	1923-34
George Reinehardt	1900	1923-38
Ken Rhyne	1922	1941-52
Virgil Richardson	1919	1939-54
Charles Riddle	1925	1943-62
Spencer Robbins	1928	1948-62

Henry Robinson	1924	1943-57
Russell Rosburg	1930	1949-57
Edward "Parnell" Ruark	1925	1949-54
Maurice Santomauro	1925	1944-57
Robert "Joe" Schmidt	1918	1937-54
C. E. "Ed" Seeley	1893	1922-33
Vernon Shetler	1919	1936-54
Richard Sinovic	1925	1947-58
Harry Soufas	1918	1937-50
Dean Stafford	1921	1946-55
Frank "Pat" Stasey	1918	1938-55
John Streza	1920	1938-56
John M. Thomas	1879	1902-12
Robert "Woody" Traylor	1913	1934-46
Leonard Tucker	1929	1953-63
Louis Vezilich	1914	1934-50
Ned Waldrop	1922	1948-55
Charles Weatherspoon	1933	1955-69
Frank Weikart	??	1888-08
J. Allan Weygandt	1930	1951-58
Wiley Williams	1927	1946-57
Nesbit Wilson	1922	1940-60
Richard Wilson	1922	1944-60
John "Pat" Wright	1902	1922-32

Minor League Notes:

- All Star 2007 game sites announced thus far are:

AAA ----Albuquerque
Southern League----Mississippi (Pearl)
Eastern League---- Connecticut (Norwich)
Texas League----Corpus Christi, TX
California/Carolina----Stockton,CA
Florida State League----Daytona Beach,FL
Midwest League---- Kane County(Geneva, IL)
South Atlantic League----Rome, GA

- The new MWL team in Midland, MI will be known as the Great Lakes Loons. The franchise was previously in Battle Creek, MI
- Will there ever be a new ballpark in Richmond, VA?

- Billings (PL) will get a new park as their levy passed in November
- Will Wichita finally move to Springdale, AR in 2008?
- Due to environmental cleanup and late funding, the new park in Columbus, OH (IL) will not be ready until 2009
- Lakeland (FSL) will be known as the Flying Tigers in 2007
- Ft. Wayne (MWL) is still working to build a new downtown park
- Will Beloit (MWL) survive if they do not get a new playing facility?
- The Arkansas Travelers will move into their new Dickey-Stephens Stadium in 2007. It is located across the river near downtown Little Rock
- The new IL team (from Ottawa) in Allentown, PA will be known as the IronPigs (yes, IronPigs!) in 2008
- The Minor League website (www.minorleagueneews.com) picked their top ten minor league ballparks having the best evening's experience for 2006 – Do you agree with their choices?

1. Round Rock, TX – The Dell
2. Reading, PA – First Energy
3. Oklahoma City, OK – Bricktown
4. Albuquerque, NM – Isotopes
5. Springfield, MO – Hammons
6. Brooklyn, NY – Keyspan
7. Toledo, OH – 5/3
8. Dayton, OH – 5/3
9. Stockton, CA – Banner Island
10. Sauget, IL – GCS

Share your best minor league experience with us through the newsletter. Give us the where, when and why and we will place them in the newsletter

- Minor League Baseball will conduct its 2006 winter meetings in Orlando, Florida from December 4 through 7. The meetings consist of employment opportunities with all affiliated minor league baseball clubs, a trade show with over three hundred exhibitors, and a gala on the evening of December 6, at Friday's Front Row, rated as Orlando's number one sports bar.
Register on line at (www.milb.com) or by contact the Minor League baseball office at 727-822-6937 x-1701 or by email: darrylhenderson@minorleaguebaseball.com

A schedule of future sites for the Minor League baseball winter meetings have been released.

2007 – Nashville
2008- Las Vegas
2009- Indianapolis

SYNOPSIS OF ACTIVITIES of THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION ALMANAC by Rex Hamann

I've been dubbed "the chronicler" of the American Association, particularly with respect to the period from 1902-1952, for my work researching and writing about the topic of the old American Association. When I began the one-sheet newsletter called The American Association Newsletter five years ago, I did not foresee that it would become a substantial baseball history journal which contributes significantly to the literature of baseball. Now known as the American Association Almanac, the last issue on the topic of Neil Park I, located in Columbus, Ohio, has a length of over 25,000 words, thirteen sheets including a cover. This issue discusses the history of the first Neil Park from inception to demolition four years later when it was the home of the American Association's Columbus Senators. The Almanac also contains a special Necrology section which goes into some detail of those ballplayers who ever played in a single game in the Association who passed away recently. There are also special features contained. Subscriptions start at \$16.00. The Almanac is currently looking for benefactors to help fund this essential research project. Contact me at pureout@msn.com for more information, or visit my website at www.americanassociationalmnanc.com.

During the month of August, my wife and I embarked from our home near Minneapolis on a 3900-mile tour of middle America with the intention of locating the graves of former American Association ballplayers. All told, we visited 70 ballplayer graves, taking multiple photos of each cemetery which will eventually wind up on my website. Included in the grave hunt were such players as Dick "Brains" Padden, Harry "Cy" Morgan, William "Doc" Marshall, Harvey "Doc" Bailey, Otto "Jack" Saltzgaver and a variety of others from Michigan to Iowa. A listing of player grave photos is available and for sale in either a matted or unmatted format. Most of the players whose graves we sought out had played during the deadball era.

My research will soon continue on the topic of Pitcher Records for the year 1903. It was found that the American Association roster book by Marshall Wright was incomplete for this season, so my work tries to fill in the gaps and correct previously reported data. This effort is roughly half complete, with the category of

Innings Pitched being a primary focus. I am using box scores and reports from local newspapers as well as from both Sporting Life and the Sporting News.

I finally won my first SABR award for a Yoseloff grant which will help me with the expenses I'm incurring for my project on the 1910-12 Minneapolis Millers, a powerhouse team which won three straight American Association championships. But it wasn't the first team to accomplish this feat. That claim belongs to the 1905-07 Columbus Senators. Part of my efforts as a self-publishing, "starving" writer is to find ways to earn grants and advertise my publication. If you have an idea for a grant I might apply for, please let me know.

Finally, an effort to produce an attractive 2007 American Association Wall Calendar featuring unique photographs of American Association subjects pre-1955 is underway. It is designed to appeal to the vintage baseball enthusiast and will eventually have collector value. The amount of information contained within its pages is substantial. Each month highlights ballplayer birthdays with biographical information provided at the rear of the calendar. It is wire bound with a stiff cardboard cover, designed to resemble an old-time scorekeeper's notebook. Please contact me at pureout@msn.com if you are interested in ordering one at a cost of \$25.00. I rely upon sales of this calendar to help me produce the American Association Almanac.

The following information comes from the ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL, contributed by Tom O'Toole

The low number of players allowed on minor league rosters years ago presented general managers and managers with some difficulty. Take for instance the Albuquerque Dukes during 1946 in the West Texas - New Mexico League.

With a roster limit of 15, the Dukes counted 10 position players and 5 pitches as of May 1. However, one pitcher -- Dub Scott -- asked leave to go home to Arkansas. He needed to work one day on the railroad to maintain his seniority. He was gone two weeks! As a result, one pitcher -- Hank Weaver -- started on two days rest and had to go the route in a 13-2 loss to Borger on May 17. On the same day, Clovis had only three pitchers on the roster, prompting manager Hal Webb to take to the mound in the 7th inning of a 17-1 loss to Pampa. Four days later, Clovis pitcher Darwin Dobbs came on in relief and toiled for 6 2/3 innings, the result being a 10-6 loss to Lamesa. Dobbs had pitched a complete game the day before to down Lamesa, 11-3.

On May 23 the Albuquerque pitching staff expanded to seven with the addition of two pitchers from the Mexican League and the return of Dub Scott from "working on the railroad". This resulted in the employment of only eight position players. One of the outfielders was tabbed as the emergency backup catcher. Some weeks later the Dukes had a more rational balance between position

players and pitchers but still found themselves short in a July 11th game. The Dukes had had two catchers on their roster but released one of them -- Roger Diers -- the previous day. When the other catcher -- Charles Hansen -- was ejected from the game by the home plate umpire in the 7th innings, the erstwhile railroader -- Dub Scott -- went in to catch. Scott "relieved" as catcher again on July 23 when the regular center fielder -- filling in at second base -- was injured and the catcher took over at second.

Surely other GMs and managers in other leagues had similar problems, taxing their ability to find versatile players such as Dub Scott. Or -- in the case of manager Webb taking the mound -- their own playing skills.

Independent League Notes:

- Josh Kinney (St. Louis Cardinals) became the second former Frontier League player to appear in a World Series (2006). Kinney played for River City in 2001, his first professional year.
- St. George, UT returns to professional baseball in 2007 in the Golden Baseball League. They will play at Bruce Hurst Field on the campus of Dixie State College
- The new Southcoast League will open in 2007 and include Anderson, SC, Macon, GA, Charlotte County, FL, Albany, GA, Aiken, SC, and Bradenton, FL
- York, PA will enter the Atlantic League in a new stadium on Arch St. in York, and replace Atlantic City which moves to the Can-Am League. The shorter Can-Am League season favors Atlantic City's tourist season
- Slippery Rock, PA will be the twelfth team in the Frontier League in 2007, playing on the Slippery Rock University campus
- Marion, IL will also join the FL in 2007 as the Southern Illinois Miners
- Will Joplin, MO rejuvenate Joe Becker Stadium and entertain an independent team?
- Will Lorain, OH finally build a stadium to attract an independent team?
- Huntington, WV may be in line for a Frontier League franchise. They would play in a newly planned stadium at Marshall University.

- Will the Northern League survive if Schaumburg, Joliet and Gary defect to a league closer geographically to those cities?
- Independent League All star game dates for 2007:

Atlantic League; Lancaster, Pa, July 11

Northern League: Fargo-Moorhead, July 10

Frontier League: Florence, KY, July 11

American Association: Sioux Falls, SD, July 17

Independent League Baseball – The United Baseball League.... Contributed by Gary Sarnoff

Two avid baseball fans had a vision, and they made it into a reality. Today they have a six-team Independent baseball league in small cities throughout the state of Texas, and one in Louisiana.

Byron Pierce and John Bryant are no strangers to the Independent Baseball Leagues. In 1994 they formed the Texas-Louisiana League, which they eventually sold, and was renamed as the Central Baseball League (CBL). The Central Baseball League grew to a league membership of ten teams in 2003. A year later the league contracted and the ball teams of Harlingen, Texas and Alexandria, Louisiana were eliminated. Two years later three other cities were without baseball when the Central Baseball League was resolved and five of the leagues eight teams, along with four teams from the Northern League, formed a new Independent League, the American Association. The three communities left out of the new League were Amarillo, Edinburg, and San Angelo.

Enter Pierce and Bryant, who had a vision to form a new Independent Baseball League and bring baseball back to the abandoned communities which once had teams in their Texas-Louisiana league and later the Central Baseball League. With the season quickly approaching, Pierce and Bryant had to act fast, and their hard work and hustle paid off as they formed a six-team membership of their new United Baseball League (ULB) in time for the 2006 season. For another summer the citizens of Amarillo, Edinburg, and San Angelo were enjoying the Nationals Past time. In addition, both Harlingen and Alexandria were added and happy to have baseball for the first time in three summers. Laredo, Texas, a city enjoying minor league baseball for the first time, rounds out the six-team league membership.

There is more hard work to be done before the vision is complete. More teams, new and refurbished stadiums, and the return of minor league baseball to the communities which once had teams, are all in the works.

All is part of making the vision a reality for two avid baseball fans.

Notes from the League –

- In its first year of existence the United Baseball League drew close to 500,000 fans.
- Each team played a 90 game schedule. Edinburg finished with the best record. Alexandria won the playoffs, the first championship for the Aces since 1994, the first season of the old Texas- Louisiana League.
- The General Manager of the Amarillo Dillas is Mark Lee, a former pitcher for the Padres and Pirates. In 1978 Lee was a member of the Padres pitching staff, which finished second in the National League in pitching, as the Padres had their first winning season in franchise history. That season Lee won five of his six decisions and had a respectable era of 3.28
Lee was named the Executive of the ULB in its first season.
- The manager of the Amarillo Dillas is former Royals short stop Buddy Biancalana, known for his good play in the 1985 World Series, and for his appearance on David Letterman show where he gave the comedian an official game used Biancalana baseball bat. The weak hitting shortstop noted the bat had no ball marks.

Baseball in El Paso

The people of El Paso, Texas are enjoying their Diablos, and are very satisfied with their baseball team being a member of the Independent Baseball Leagues following thirty-three seasons as a member of the Texas League.

Since El Paso said farewell to the Texas League after the 2004 season, and became part of the Independent Central Baseball League in 2005, and a year later, the American Association, attendance at Cohen stadium has been strong. During that first season the average attendance at Cohen Stadium increased to 4,100 per game. Last season, with the Diablos in the newly formed American Association, attendance was a very respectable 3,600 per game, down from the previous season due to the greatest amount of rainfall seen in these parts in memory, which resulted in six rainouts.

So why have the Diablos been so successful for two seasons in the Independent Leagues? David Pearlman, part of the Diablos ownership group which took over in 2005, mentions that excellent Promotions, fun in between innings entertainment, strong sponsorship, and treating their customers with respect have all contributed to the team's success. Pearlman also points out to the high caliber of play of the American Association, which is considered to be higher than the AA level, appeals to the fans.

A member of a strong Independent League, a fan friendly ownership group, a great atmosphere at the ballpark, and the people of El Paso will continue to enjoy their Diablos.

END