

Outside the Lines

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SABR Business of Baseball Committee Newsletter

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Chairman's Letter

Hope to see many of you in Louisville later this month. The Committee's annual meeting is tentatively scheduled for Saturday afternoon. For those of you who haven't renewed your SABR membership for 1997, this is the last newsletter you'll receive. You wouldn't want to miss out, so get those checks in the mail...

As always, thanks to all who send material for the Committee's archives, including **Ken Carrano**, **Dick Kaufman**, **John Matthew**, **John Moist**, **Phyllis Otto**, and **David Pietrusza**, and to Bibliography Committee chairman **Andy McCue** and his Committee's Research in Baseball Index for allowing us to print their material.

No fewer than four SABRites on the Newsletter mailing list have books scheduled for June publication. One's already in bookstores: **Keith Olbermann** and Dan Patrick's *The Big Show: Inside America's SportsCenter* (Pocket Books: \$23.00 hardcover). In addition, **Daniel Marburger** has edited *Stee-Rike Four: What's Wrong with the Business of Baseball* (Praeger: \$55.00 hardcover); **David Pietrusza's** *Judge and Jury: The Life & Times of Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis* (Diamond Communications: \$32.95 hardcover) is the first Landis biography in 50 years; and **Andrew Zimbalist** and Roger Noll have co-edited *Sports, Jobs and Taxes: The Economic Impact of Sports Teams and Facilities* (Brookings Institution: \$22.95 paperback, \$49.95 hardcover). If we keep cranking out books at this rate, everyone reading this will have written or edited one by 2000...

Overview of Committee Resources

This is a list of what we need, as well as what we have. If you have any of the material we're looking for, the Committee will reimburse you for copying and mailing expenses. If we have anything you're looking for, our newly-reduced copying/mailling charge is 11 cents/page for orders of 20 pages or fewer, 10 cents/page for larger orders. For more information, contact the Chairman at the address above.

Arbitration Results. Have: 29-page summary of arbitration results for all seasons since 1974. Need: Lists of all who filed for 1974-82, 1984, 1995-96; offer/request figures for all filers in the above seasons, plus 1983, 1985 and 1986.

Collective Bargaining Agreements. Have: Basic Agreements signed in 1976 and 1990. Need: The others -- especially the new one, for which I keep getting requests. Has anyone received one yet?

Economic Analyses. Have: several dozen, on a variety of topics -- let me know what you're interested in. Of special interest: Roger Noll's 1985 report, *The Economic Viability of Professional Baseball*, and the December 3, 1992 *Report of Independent Members of the Economic Study Committee on Baseball*.

Governing Documents. Have: 1903 National Agreement and AL-NL Agreement; 1912 National Agreement; 1921 Major League Agreement; 1926 AL Constitution. Need: All others which may be available.

Judicial Opinions. Over 80 from 1882 to the present -- write or E-mail for a list.

Legislative Materials. Have: *Organized Baseball*, Report of the Subcommittee on Study of Monopoly Power, House Judiciary Committee (1952); *Sporting News* reprint of financial information released by 1952 and 1957 Congressional committees; copies of baseball-related legislation introduced in Congress, 1994-96. Need: House reports and hearings from 1951, 1957, 1958; Senate reports and hearings from 1953, 1954, 1958, 1959; other Congressional reports dealing with professional sports generally.

Player Salaries. Have: Database of approximately 15,000 salaries from 1869 to the present, including complete rosters from 1985-1997. Most of this information comes from unofficial sources, but these are supplemented by the Noll-Fort-Hylan database of selected 1960s-1970s salaries, verified by the IRS for

use in litigation, and by official information from the 1994, 1996 and 1997 "Joint Exhibit 1" used in salary arbitrations. Need: Joint Exhibit 1s from other seasons.

Press Clips. Have: Electronic clipfile of several thousand articles from 1994-97, including extensive strike coverage; most useful for fast answers to discrete queries. Need: Older "business"-oriented material from magazines and local newspapers, if you find it while researching other topics.

Major League Notes

Player salaries:

Average salary: End of 1996: \$1,101,455, up 0.6% from 1995 but still 4.7% below 1994.

Opening Day 1997: \$1,383,578, up from \$1,176,967 in 1996, \$1,071,029 in 1995.

Median salary: \$300,000 at the end of 1996, up from \$275,000 in 1995 but below 1994's \$450,000.

On Opening Day 1997, the median was back up to \$450,000.

Revenue sharing: Owners' formula implemented as part of the new collective bargaining agreement, but phased in at 60% level for 1996 (number on left is 1996 figure, number on right is 1997 estimate)

Contributors

Yankees \$5,800,000/\$8,400,000
Indians \$5,700,000/\$5,700,000
Orioles \$5,300,000/\$6,900,000
Braves \$3,800,000/\$6,600,000
Dodgers \$3,600,000/\$3,600,000
Red Sox \$3,000,000/\$3,600,000
Rangers \$2,900,000/\$3,300,000
White Sox \$2,200,000/\$3,600,000
Blue Jays \$1,800,000/\$900,000
Cubs \$800,000/\$225,000
Mariners \$600,000/\$750,000
Mets \$500,000/\$750,000

Recipients

Expos \$5,500,000/\$6,600,000
Tigers \$5,100,000/\$6,600,000
Royals \$5,000,000/\$5,400,000
Pirates \$4,900,000/\$6,300,000
Twins \$4,700,000/\$5,100,000
Brewers \$4,600,000/\$5,400,000
Athletics \$3,800,000/\$4,500,000
Reds \$3,300,000/\$4,500,000
Padres \$3,000,000/\$2,400,000
Angels \$3,000,000/\$6,300,000
Astros \$2,500,000/\$3,000,000
Giants \$966,000/\$2,700,000
Phillies \$670,000/\$3,000,000
Cardinals \$125,000/(\$375,000 contribution)

Exempt

Rockies
Marlins

Labor peace at last. On November 26, a week after hard-liner Jerry Reinsdorf signed Albert Belle to a five-year, \$55 million contract, the owners reversed their earlier 18-12 rejection of the labor agreement negotiated on their behalf, approving the identical deal by a 26-4 vote. The White Sox, Indians, Royals and Athletics voted No -- in Cleveland's case because, in the wake of the Belle signing, owner Richard Jacobs wanted no constraints at all on his ability to challenge the White Sox. After the vote, Reinsdorf smirked, "Actually, it's good for the White Sox because it dooms the small-market teams. There will be less for us to compete against." At press time Reinsdorf's White Sox had a worse record than the Pittsburgh Pirates, whose entire 25-man roster earns less than Belle.

AP poll: Baseball's popularity still down. Results of a national survey conducted March 5-9:

- (1) Do you consider yourself a fan of major league baseball, or not?" 28% Yes, 10% Somewhat, 62% No.
- (2) Effect of the labor dispute on fan interest: 26% a lot lower, 21% a little lower, 30% back to normal, 6% higher than ever, 17% don't know/no answer.
- (3) "Do you think the cost of attending a major-league game is out of reach for people like you?" 48% Yes, 37% No, 15% don't know/no answer. [Editorial note: since in fact any family which can afford to go out for Saturday night dinner and a movie can afford to attend a major league game, MLB has a major image problem to overcome.]
- (4) "Are major league baseball players' salaries too high, too low, or about right?" 73% too high, 1% too low, 18% about right, 9% don't know/no answer. 89% of those who answered "too high" said that other team sports' salaries were also too high.
- (5) Interleague play: 54% say it's a change for the better, 12% a change for the worse. 6% say neither better nor worse; 29% don't know/not familiar/no answer.

Local vs. national marketing chaos. Although MLB needed the labor agreement even to get its foot in the door with many prospective national sponsors, labor peace is not enough. As a Nike spokesman explained, MLB allows local clubs to undercut national marketing ties by striking their own deals with competing products: "They'll sell you a national partnership, then ambush you on a local level." Typefying the chaos, Pepsi signed a five-year, \$50 million

sponsorship deal with MLB even though Coca-Cola products are the exclusive soft drinks in 24 of 28 major league stadiums. The New York Yankees signed a 10-year, \$95 million sponsorship deal with Adidas even though other companies hold exclusive rights to manufacture MLB shoes and uniforms, then sought to invalidate MLB's national licensing agreement on antitrust grounds.

1998 expansion teams assigned to leagues. But not without a fight. Before the January league meetings, observers expected the Arizona Diamondbacks to join the NL, with the Tampa Bay Devil Rays assigned to the AL. But unexpected AL opposition soon arose: the Mariners and Athletics wanted Arizona for the AL West, while the Rangers and Royals feared that adding the Devil Rays to the AL would force divisional realignment. To avoid antagonizing the established teams, MLB ultimately exiled the Devil Rays to the AL West, where most road games with three of four divisional rivals will begin at 10 p.m. local time. As an additional inducement, the American League proposed to allow the Devil Rays to swap *interleague games* with the Yankees: in 1998, Tampa would play the Braves and Marlins, their closest geographic rivals, while the Yankees got "homecoming" games with the Giants and Dodgers. But no one cleared this with the National League, which rejected the swap. The current divisional alignment will last at least through 1999, but MLB is considering sweeping changes in connection with the next expansion, one which may lead to several teams (possibly the Royals and Astros) switching leagues.

Interleague play on the horizon. The first regular-season interleague games in 127 years of major league baseball will be played on Thursday, June 12. The historic first game matches those natural rivals, the San Francisco Giants and Texas Rangers. (Meanwhile, long-suffering Red Sox fans may think MLB's playing a joke on them: their first interleague game is on Friday the 13th at Shea Stadium. No word whether Bill Buckner will let the ceremonial first pitch roll through his legs.) The players have approved interleague play for 1998 and beyond -- but with the proviso that if it's expanded beyond 16 games per team, the DH must be used in all parks.

While this year's interleague games are clustered in two blocks of the schedule, the odd number of teams in each league will mandate at least one interleague series at all times during 1998. And even before interleague play begins, MLB is looking into ways to ensure that regional rivals (Cardinals-Royals, Rangers-Astros) play one another every season. (See below for a chronology of past efforts to adopt interleague play.)

Irabu fiasco. MLB's relations with the Japanese leagues are still governed by a treaty adopted in 1966. The limitations of this treaty became glaringly apparent when, after the San Diego Padres obtained exclusive negotiating rights to fireballer Hideki Irabu from the Chiba Lotte Marines, Irabu insisted he would pitch only for the New York Yankees. Supported by the Players' Association, Irabu remained in limbo through months of negotiations, threatened lawsuits and labor grievances, until the Padres finally traded his rights to the Yankees.

Luxury tax weakened. As originally designed, the new luxury tax was supposed to cost the five highest-payroll teams 35% of the amount of their payrolls over \$51 million. But with more than five teams likely to finish 1997 with more than \$51 million in salaries, the New York *Times* reports that the tax threshold has been raised to the higher of \$51 million or the midpoint between the fifth and sixth highest payrolls. This makes considerable economic sense -- under the old system, if teams 5 and 6 both paid their players about \$54 million, a \$1 difference between the two would have cost the higher-paying team \$1 million in tax -- but will dilute the impact of the tax on all affected clubs. The lucky five won't be known until the end of the season.

Some Negro Leaguers receive pensions from MLB. MLB's Executive Council has granted pensions of roughly \$10,000/year to about 30 ex-Negro Leaguers who reached the majors, but did not play long enough to qualify for the pension plan.

Commissioner search begins for real. MLB has retained an executive recruiting firm to help in the search for a permanent Commissioner. Paul Beeston, president of the Toronto Blue Jays, who is expected to leave his position when the team is sold, remains a front-runner.

Postseason TV rights for Canada sold to cable network. The Sports Network, a Canadian version of ESPN, paid about \$12 million for the Canadian TV rights to the playoffs and World Series. According to *Baseball America*, only about 75% of Canadian homes have cable, and only 70% of those systems carry The Sports Channel, so more than 40% of Canadians will be unable to watch the postseason unless they're within range of American stations.

Team Notes

Anaheim: The California Angels officially changed their name to the Anaheim Angels.

Chicago White Sox: Three months after boasting that the White Sox could afford to pay Albert Belle \$11 million/year, Jerry Reinsdorf raised ticket prices by \$2/seat and announced that even at the higher rate the Sox were

unlikely to break even in 1997. Reinsdorf then began selling single-game tickets to the Cub-White Sox interleague games only in strips of four, bundled with tickets to three less attractive home games, explaining that the move was needed to deter Cub fans from infiltrating Comiskey Park. When none of the Cub-White Sox games had sold out by early May, the White Sox quietly began selling single-game tickets in the conventional manner.

Detroit: The Tigers have secured \$145 million in financing for their contribution to the cost of a new stadium, and claim to have leased 50 of the 80 luxury boxes at the new park. Most of these boxes will rent for \$75,000/year, with eight field-level boxes costing \$125,000.

Milwaukee: Ken Carrano sent on "Storm Warnings," an article on the Brewers' finances from the December 1996 issue of *Milwaukee* magazine. The article recounts years of behind-the-scenes maneuvering by Bud Selig to acquire total operating control over the Brewers despite holding only a minority interest. Due largely to collusion damages and the disastrous labor strategy presided over by Selig, the Brewers' debt exploded from \$3 million in 1990 to \$63 million in 1996, forcing the team to rely almost entirely on Wisconsin taxpayers for a new stadium, and to search for ways around the legislatively imposed \$250 million cap on the cost of the new park.

Minnesota: As part of his campaign for a new stadium, Twins owner Carl Pohlad released figures showing that he had invested \$107.8 million in the team since purchasing it in 1984 from Calvin Griffith. This sum includes \$85.6 million borrowed to buy the team, plus an additional \$22.2 million in cash. Pohlad claims taxable losses of \$72 million, including \$12.4 million in 1994, \$13.7 million in 1995 and \$9 million in 1996; these losses saved the Pohlad family \$29 million in federal income taxes. Roger Noll, a Stanford economist and long-time consultant to the MLBPA, told the *Minneapolis-St. Paul Tribune* that he considered the figures "close to being accurate."

Although the Metrodome is only 15 years old, the Twins have baseball's worst lease. The team pays relatively high rent and receives no parking revenue -- and no luxury box revenue, because even during baseball season all luxury-box money goes to the NFL Vikings. Pohlad's stadium proposal calls for \$157.5 million in public money, plus \$82.5 million from the Pohlad family and \$25 million from naming and concession rights. In addition, Pohlad has offered to give 49% of the Twins to the State of Minnesota, subject to MLB approval. The proposal still faces stiff opposition in the Minnesota legislature, causing Pohlad once again to threaten to move the team.

New York Yankees: When dividing their World Series money, the Yankees didn't forget which of their teammates had served as replacement players during the strike: Dale Polley, Dave Pavlas and Matt Howard were the only three of the 49 1996 Yankees to receive no World Series share. Yankee management subsequently wrote them checks.

Cincinnati: Marge Schott's tenure as managing partner was further jeopardized when General Motors accused her of falsifying sales figures at her Chevrolet dealership to meet sales quotas. Schott settled GM's charges by surrendering the dealership, but MLB reserved the right to look into the matter. Cincinnati officials and the Reds are sparring over the location of the team's proposed new stadium, with the Reds demanding a riverfront location near Cinergy Field and the city offering a site in the Broadway Commons area, a 15-minute walk from the river and near a low-income neighborhood.

Houston: As part of the deal to erect a new stadium for the Astros, Harris County officials have agreed to pay Astros owner Drayton MacLane \$19.5 million for operating control of the Astrodome. But the deal hit a snag when the Texas legislature blocked Houston's plans to increase the local hotel tax, an essential element of the stadium financing. Astros president **Tal Smith** also objected to provisions which could force a second public referendum on the stadium proposal before construction begins.

Los Angeles: At press time, Peter O'Malley was on the verge of selling the Dodgers to Rupert Murdoch's Fox Sports. With Disney owning the Anaheim Angels, both southern California teams would belong to major television networks.

Pittsburgh: Ken Pollock, a \$5 million investor in the ownership group headed by Kevin McClatchy, became the second member of the group to sell his stake within the group's first year of ownership.

San Diego: The City of San Diego sold naming rights to Jack Murphy Stadium for \$18 million; the park will now be known as Qualcomm Stadium at Jack Murphy Sports Complex. The money's needed to expand QSAJMSC for the 1998 Super Bowl.

San Francisco: The Giants have agreed to a 25-year lease at Pacific Bell Park, scheduled for completion in time for the 2000 season. In addition to paying all construction costs, the club will buy the park's 12.5 acres of land at its market value and pay the city \$1.2 million/year in rent, subject to cost of living increases.

The Docket

On January 30, the Second Circuit reversed a lower-court injunction entered on behalf of the NBA against Motorola and STATS, Inc. in connection with Motorola's "Sports Trax" pager. This decision establishes the legality of the batter-by-batter updates compiled by STATS and provided to fans via pager and the Internet. The lower court had rejected the NBA's claim that such updates violated its copyright in the games, but found the updates improper under a common-law theory of misappropriation. The Second Circuit held that copyright law pre-empts such misappropriation claims except under very narrow circumstances: the challenged use must (i) take time-sensitive factual information, (ii) free-ride on plaintiff's efforts, and (iii) endanger the very existence of plaintiff's product or service. The court found no threat to the NBA's attendance or broadcasting contracts because pager updates don't substitute for attending a game or watching it on TV, and held that Sports Trax would be legal even if the NBA offered its own competing pager-update service, because STATS and Motorola gather their own data without free-riding on the NBA's official statistics.

The widow of Dodgers' infielder Jim Gilliam has sued the club and MLB, alleging that the Dodgers have improperly profited from using Gilliam's image on posters, media guides and other products. The suit contends that the standard contract between Gilliam and the Dodgers allowed the club to use his likeness for promotional purposes during his career, but not after his retirement.

In a similar action, Don Newcombe and other 1955 Dodgers have sued Time Warner and video game maker Accolade, Inc. for incorporating their names and likenesses in Accolade's "Hardball 5" video game. The suit alleges that the game publishers paid \$300,000 plus an 8% royalty for rights to the names and likenesses of active players, but used the identities of more than 250 retired players without compensation.

Trying to shield their 10-year, \$95 million licensing deal with Adidas from scrutiny, the Yankees sued MLB, MLB Properties, Acting Commissioner for Life Bud Selig, licensing chief Greg Murphy, and all 29 other teams, challenging the national marketing deal unanimously adopted in January 1996 on antitrust grounds. MLB responded by suspending George Steinbrenner from the Executive Council.

Ticket Prices and Attendance, 1994-96, by **Doug Pappas**

Here's a different look at ticket prices and attendance. Each team's data is presented as a percentage of the major league average: a figure of 110 represents ticket prices or attendance 10% above average, while 90 represents below-average numbers. This chart reveals which clubs draw well despite high prices (Atlanta, Baltimore, Toronto); which keep prices low to attract more fans (Colorado, Los Angeles); which sacrifice attendance to keep ticket prices high (the White Sox and Yankees, two clubs whose owners often lament their lack of fan support), and which don't draw despite low prices (the Brewers, Expos and Pirates).

The "Fan Index" averages the six numbers in the preceding columns. Baltimore rates as the majors' best-supported team, combining all three keys to success at the gate: a big market, a good team and a new stadium. (Of the eight teams with the newest stadiums, seven -- all but Florida -- rank among the 10 best-supported clubs.) The bottom 10 includes the large-market Angels and Tigers. The Mets deserve a special award: playing in baseball's biggest market, their attendance has been 30% below average.

| Team | 1994 Population | 1994 Cost | 1994 Att. | 1995 Cost | 1995 Att. | 1996 Cost | 1996 Att. | Fan Index | Rank |
|------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------|
| Atlanta | 3,330,997 | 115 | 142 | 113 | 142 | 115 | 135 | 127 | 5th |
| Baltimore | 7,051,495 | 107 | 142 | 123 | 172 | 116 | 170 | 138 | 1st |
| Boston | 5,497,284 | 129 | 99 | 127 | 120 | 136 | 108 | 104 | 11th |
| California | 7,651,138 | 77 | 85 | 76 | 97 | 75 | 85 | 83 | 20th |
| White Sox | 4,263,402 | 124 | 95 | 121 | 89 | 125 | 78 | 105 | 10th |
| Cubs | 4,263,402 | 126 | 103 | 124 | 106 | 116 | 103 | 113 | 9th |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Cincinnati | 1,894,071 | 76 | 106 | 75 | 102 | 70 | 87 | 86 | 18th |
| Cleveland | 2,898,855 | 115 | 112 | 113 | 158 | 128 | 155 | 130 | 4th |
| Colorado | 2,189,994 | 76 | 184 | 100 | 188 | 94 | 181 | 137 | 2nd |
| Detroit | 5,255,700 | 106 | 66 | 100 | 66 | 94 | 54 | 81 | 23rd |
| Florida | 3,408,038 | 95 | 108 | 91 | 94 | 92 | 81 | 94 | 15th |
| Houston | 4,098,776 | 85 | 87 | 84 | 76 | 94 | 92 | 86 | 19th |
| K.C. | 1,647,241 | 98 | 78 | 94 | 68 | 86 | 67 | 82 | 21st |
| L.A. | 7,651,138 | 93 | 128 | 91 | 153 | 88 | 149 | 117 | 7th |
| Milwaukee | 1,637,278 | 91 | 71 | 89 | 60 | 83 | 62 | 76 | 27th |
| Minnesota | 2,688,455 | 90 | 78 | 88 | 59 | 90 | 67 | 79 | 25th |
| Montreal | 3,300,000 | 82 | 71 | 84 | 73 | 80 | 75 | 78 | 26th |
| Mets | 9,898,215 | 105 | 64 | 103 | 71 | 105 | 74 | 87 | 17th |
| Yankees | 9,898,215 | 138 | 94 | 141 | 95 | 129 | 105 | 117 | 8th |
| Oakland | 3,256,611 | 102 | 70 | 100 | 65 | 100 | 54 | 82 | 22nd |
| Phila. | 5,959,301 | 93 | 128 | 92 | 113 | 97 | 84 | 101 | 12th |
| Pittsburgh | 2,402,012 | 93 | 68 | 91 | 50 | 89 | 62 | 76 | 28th |
| St. Louis | 2,536,080 | 94 | 105 | 92 | 97 | 88 | 124 | 100 | 13th |
| San Diego | 2,632,078 | 88 | 53 | 86 | 58 | 87 | 102 | 79 | 24th |
| S.F. | 3,256,611 | 101 | 95 | 104 | 69 | 94 | 66 | 88 | 16th |
| Seattle | 3,225,517 | 93 | 62 | 91 | 92 | 102 | 127 | 95 | 14th |
| Texas | 4,362,483 | 116 | 140 | 113 | 110 | 106 | 136 | 120 | 6th |
| Toronto | 4,100,000 | 133 | 163 | 125 | 157 | 123 | 119 | 137 | 3rd |

Notes: Market sizes are 1994 Census Bureau and Canadian estimates, from the 1997 *World Almanac*.

Market sizes adjusted for two-team cities.

Average ticket price: 1994: \$10.45, 1995: \$10.65, 1996: \$11.32.

Average attendance: 1994: 1,786,034, 1995: 1,802,299, 1996: 2,146,302.

***Bibliography: Commissioners*, supplied by Andy McCue and the RBI Project**

If you find any mistakes or omissions in this list, or would like more information about the RBI Project, please contact Andy McCue, 4025 Beechwood Pl., Riverside, CA 92506, agmccue@pe.net.

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Chronology of Proposals for Interleague Play

August 1933: William Veeck Sr. of the Cubs suggests interleague play for the period from July 5 through mid-August. Veeck's proposal comes in the midst of a four-year, 40% decline in major league attendance brought on by the Depression. The Dodgers and Indians endorse the plan, with the Cardinals, Pirates, and Phillies favoring serious consideration, but when Veeck dies in October, the proposal dies with him.

1953: In a last-ditch effort to save his St. Louis Browns, Bill Veeck proposes a 32-game interleague schedule, with each club playing four games against each team in the other league. The proposal is doomed: the other AL owners want Veeck out of baseball. The AL also rejects Veeck's proposal to move the Browns to Baltimore, then approves the move as soon as Veeck sells the club.

1954 and 1956: Hank Greenburg of the Indians, a Veeck protégé, renews his suggestion of a 32-game interleague schedule. Since the AL votes it down, interleague play is never formally presented to the NL

1959-60: For the first time, interleague play wins the support of an entire league. Calvin Griffith wants to move the Washington Senators to Minneapolis, but for political reasons, MLB can't afford to abandon Washington. In late 1959 the AL proposes a one-team expansion in each league, with Minneapolis added to the AL, New York returning to the NL, and interleague play between the two nine-team leagues, but the NL says No. In 1960 the NL votes to expand to New York and Houston for 1962. The AL then votes to transfer the Senators to Minnesota, replace them with a new Senators expansion club in Washington, and place a second expansion franchise in Los Angeles for 1961. But when the Dodgers object to the invasion of their territory, they and the AL return to the earlier proposal of nine-team leagues with interleague play. The rest of the NL stand fast, and the Dodgers back down after receiving \$550,000 indemnification.

1962: Commissioner Ford Frick proposes a 157-game interleague schedule for 1963, but again the NL blocks the move. Each club would have played 117 games within their own league (13 against each opponent) and 40 interleague games (four against each club in the other league).

1973: The AL endorses interleague play at the same time it adopts the DH. When interleague play is formally proposed at the midsummer league meetings, the AL votes Yes, the NL votes No. Commissioner Bowie Kuhn (a supporter) refuses to cast the tie-breaking vote, instead appointing a committee to study the issue. The various proposals had called for between four and 18 interleague games per season.

1975-76: The AL again pressures for interleague play after agreeing to settle an antitrust suit arising out of the Seattle Pilots' move to Milwaukee by placing another team in Seattle. Complicating matters, Toronto interests reach an agreement in principle to buy and move the San Francisco Giants, thereby preempting the best available expansion site. The NL refuses to add a 13th team, which would necessarily require interleague play. The stalemate ends with the Giants remaining in San Francisco and the AL adding a 14th team in Toronto. 1983: During TV negotiations, MLB and CBS briefly discuss a special series of interleague games limited to Thursday nights. The schedule would have provided three interleague games per week (roughly six games per club), with Eastern and Western Division clubs playing one another.

1993: In an informal vote, the owners approve the concept of realignment into three divisions and 10-

20 interleague games per year.

January 18, 1996: Owners unanimously adopt interleague play for 1997. The Eastern, Central and Western Division clubs will play one another: five three-game series between Eastern and Central Division rivals, four two-game home-and-home series between Western Division clubs. The DH will be used in AL cities.

Book Review: Baseball Economics -- Current Research, by Doug Pappas

As many economists have discovered, professional baseball offers many fertile fields for analysis. The relatively small universe of teams and players makes sampling unnecessary. Attendance data, player statistics and modern-era salary lists are widely available, and MLB's unique three-tiered salary structure sets labor economists' hearts a-flutter.

Baseball Economics -- Current Research, edited by John Fizel, Elizabeth Gustafson and **Lawrence Hadley**, collects papers presented at the 1995 meeting of the Western Economic Association. Principal topics include factors affecting attendance; the effect of free agency, salary arbitration and the expense of the minor league system on player salaries; the workings of the arbitration process; and revenue sharing. As a non-economist interested more in the results than the process, I was most intrigued by the discussions of major league attendance by Thomas A. Bruggink, **James W. Eaton** and **Donald A. Coffin**, and by Anthony C. Krautmann and Margaret Oppenheimer's conclusion that on balance, the salary saved by owners as a result of the reserve clause merely allows them to recoup the high costs of operating their farm systems.

As the editors state at the outset, the book "is directed primarily to an academic audience," placing more importance "on economic methodology and rigor than in books published by the popular press." While methodology and rigor are important, so is clarity: some of the material is quite difficult to follow, and the book would have benefited from editing by a non-economist.

But *Baseball Economics -- Current Research* is most significant as a harbinger of things to come. As the body of academic analysis grows, its conclusions will be incorporated into more accessible works. **Andrew Zimbalist's** *Baseball and Billions*, and more recent books by Mark S. Rosentraub and **Richard Sheehan**, offer interested fans insight into issues on which articles in the popular press often read like handouts from club owners and stadium developers. While I wish the book was an easier read, I hope it inspires additional research and spawns many sequels.

The 240-page volume lists for \$55.00, but is available to SABR members at a 20% discount directly from the publisher: Greenwood Publishing Group, P.O. Box 5007, Westport, CT 06881-5007, 1-800-225-5800.

Roster Changes

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