

# SABR Minor League Newsletter

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## **New Members**

Ron Henry; 3031 Ewing Avenue S #142, Minneapolis MN 55416; auricle99@aol.com; (612) 925-9114. Has Spalding/Reach/Spink Guides 1883-2002, BB Registers 1940-2002, Who's Who 1918-2002; has access to Minnesota newspapers. Ongoing project of compiling career records for players, managers, umpires, executives since 1948. Willing to help - Considerable.

Ron Parker; 7 Anglesey Blvd., Apt. 33, Toronto, Ont. M9A 3B2, Canada; 2ronparker@rogers.com; questionnaire sent

Marty Resnick; 16654 Soledad Canyon Rd. #143, Canyon Country CA 91387; marty@fanaticsonly.com; questionnaire sent

Atticus Ryan; Van de Woestyneheem 14, 2182 WR Hillegom, The Netherlands; jaryan@xs4all.nl. Limited access to material due to foreign location. Interest - great uncle Alex Korponay, who played in the minors during most of the 1940s, including Scranton and Wilmington.

## **Change of Address**

Richard Puff; 500 Crabtree Creek Road, Hillsborough NC 27278-6201  
Dan Ross; 1800 Energy Center Blvd. #1922, Northport AL 35473-2711 (temporary as of 3/16/02)  
Neal Traven; 4317 Dayton Avenue N, Apt. #201, Seattle WA 98103  
John Pardon; e-mail: jfpardonme@yahoo.com

## **SABR Annual Convention**

The Minor League Committee will meet from 7:30 to 9:00 AM on Friday, June 28. Ignore any other schedules you may have seen.

Dave Chase will be giving a report on The National Pastime; The Museum of Minor League Baseball, and also on *The Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball*. Bill McMahon will give a report on the Farm Club Project. Marc Okkonen will give a report on his 2000 Cups of Coffee Project. We will hear about a possible BioProject Committee. All committee members are welcome to bring up subjects relating to the minors. If you will not be attending but wish to have a topic discussed, write to Bob McConnell or e-mail Reed Howard with the details.

A summary of these reports will appear in the next newsletter.

## **Pacific Coast League (PCL) Encyclopedia 1903-1957**

Carlos Bauer hopes to have this encyclopedia ready by early next year. It will be in three volumes of about 400 pages each, and will use a format somewhat similar to *Total Baseball*. The first volume will include an introduction plus records for batters A to L. The second volume will include records for batters M to Z. The third volume will include records for pitchers, team standings, managers and statistical records. A feature will be the evolution of each batting and pitching statistic. The 1957 cutoff was used due to the PCL losing its two largest cities and four teams. Some consideration is being given to creating a new set of records starting with the 1958 season.

## **Compilation of Minor League Stats**

Bob Richardson is working on the 1910 New England League.  
Jack Dougherty is working on the extra base hits for the 1898 Connecticut League.  
Ray Nemecek is working on the 1892 Southern League and has completed the 1951 Alabama-Florida League.  
Ron Selter has completed the pitching Oless thansO for the PCL for 1950 thru 1954, and 1956.

Tom Kayser has compiled the pitcher W-L records and the player home runs (with dates) for the 1898 Texas League. This league folded on May 16 due to the Spanish-American War, plus bad weather. Tom has also come up with the names of 15 new players to be added to the Ruggles book, *The History of the Texas League*. For those of you who are not familiar with this book, it has a roster of every player who played in the Texas League thru 1951.

Tom Chase has compiled data on the 1908-12 Blue Grass League. Included are corrected team W-L records, team rosters with fielding position and playing span, and games started and complete games for pitchers. The 1908 stats do not include playing span or pitching stats. Tom also has a write-up on the problems encountered in compiling his data.

Gary Fink has reworked the 1932 American Association pitching stats. He has added CG, ShO, ER and ERA. Also included are a great deal of stats on "less than" pitchers. He has even included batting stats for pitchers. He lists all pitchers in alphabetical order with age, throws, years played and comments.

Carlos Bauer has completed reworking the 1904 and 1905 Pacific Coast League stats. He has also completed the 1907 PCL batting for "less thans" and all pitching. Carlos has come up with several interesting facts. In 1904 George Van Haltren had 933 AB and Rick Devereaux played in 228 games. It is believed that these are all time records for Organized Baseball. Bill Dunleavy, with 227 games in the 1905 PCL, had been credited with the games played record. Carlos found him in only 211 games. Frank Dillon, an outstanding base stealer, is credited with 33 stolen bases for 1905 in *The Minor League Register (TMLR)*. The corrected stats bring his total up to 55. Dolly Gray was the 1907 victory leader with a record of 32-14. The new stats up his record to 34-14. Oscar Jones, who's record also appears in TMLR, led the league in G, GS, ShO, IP and hits allowed.

### **Sammy Vick**

Sammy Vick, who was a fairly good major leaguer, got short changed during the 1926 Cotton States League season. Although he was listed in the fielding averages, he was omitted from the batting stats. Art Schott has compiled his batting stats and has submitted a game-by-game record. *The Minor League Encyclopedia* credits George Biggerstaff with a league leading average of .357. Art came up with the following for Vick: G 105, AB 356, R 76, H 134, 2B 41, 3B 9, HR 7, SH 24, SB 20, BA .376. Thus, we have a new batting champ for the 1926 Cotton States League. Great work, Art!

### **Big Day in Baltimore**

Jimmy Keenan sent a copy of the game story of a doubleheader at Baltimore on July 4, 1932. The following is a direct quote from the *Baltimore Sun* showing the colorful jargon of the day:

"Then came July 4, 1932, which happened to be yesterday, and the Baltimore Orioles did themselves proud while trimming Reading in both ends of a doubleheader, 21 to 10 and 9 to 8, for, while they were at it, they set up a mark to talk about. We haven't the records for minor league clubs at the moment, but the Flock pummeled the horsehide for 12 home runs in the two jousts, and you can get some idea of what that means when it is remarked that the major league record is ten homers. This record was etched into baseballdom by the Pirates seven years ago."

Buzz Arlett led the parade with 5 homers, including four in the first game. Bool and Regan also homered in the first game. Regan (2), McGowan, Packard and Heffner added home runs in the second game. Reading kicked in with 4 homers for the day.

### **Hall of Fame Teammates**

We originally published a list of Hall of Fame players who had previously been teammates on a minor league team together in the April, 2001 newsletter. Since that time, we have set two groundrules: (1) teammates is defined as players on the team at the same time, but not necessarily appearing in a game together; (2) people who made the HOF as managers, umpires, etc. do not count. If you wish, you can send in special categories which do include managers. Below is the revised list (/ indicates that franchise relocated):

1879	Holyoke, National Assn	Roger Connor	Mickey Welch
1899	Columbus/Grand Rapids, Western Lg	Sam Crawford	Rube Waddell
1910	Newark, Eastern Lg	Joe McGinnity	Rube Waddell
1911	Minneapolis, American Assn	Red Faber	Rube Waddell
1913	Portland, Northwestern Lg	Dave Bancroft	Harry Heilmann
1917	Columbus, American Assn	Mordecai Brown	Joe Tinker
1917	Toledo, American Assn	Roger Bresnahan	Dazzy Vance
1917	Rochester, International Lg	George Kelly	Ross Youngs
1922	Toledo, American Assn	Fred Lindstrom	Bill Terry

1923	Toledo, American Assn	Fred Lindstrom	Bill Terry
1923	Baltimore, International Lg	Chief Bender	Lefty Grove
1924	Easton, Eastern Shore Lg	Home Run Baker	Jimmie Foxx
1925	San Francisco, Pacific Coast Lg	Lloyd Waner	Paul Waner
1926	San Francisco, Pacific Coast Lg	Earl Averill	Lloyd Waner
1931	Houston, Texas Lg	Dizzy Dean	Joe Medwick
1936	San Diego, Pacific Coast Lg	Bobby Doerr	Ted Williams
1939	Toronto, International Lg	Tony Lazzeri	Heinie Manush
1951	Minneapolis, American Assn	Ray Dandridge	Willie Mays; Hoyt Wilhelm
1960	Houston, American Assn	Enos Slaughter	Billy Williams
1960	Tacoma, Pacific Coast Lg	Juan Marichal	Gaylord Perry
1966	Modesto, California Lg	Rollie Fingers	Reggie Jackson
1966	Peninsula, Carolina Lg	Johnny Bench	Satchel Paige
1967	Birmingham, Southern Lg	Rollie Fingers	Reggie Jackson

The following are possibilities. They were on a team at sometime during the season and may have been teammates. Can we get a few members to check them out?

1880	Rochester, National Assn	Dan Brouthers	Buck Ewing
1916	Hartford, Eastern Lg	Jesse Burkett	Waite Hoyt
1917	Memphis, Southern Assn	Waite Hoyt	Dazzy Vance
1918	Newark, International Assn	Waite Hoyt	Tom McCarthy
1920	New Orleans, Southern Assn	Joe Sewell	Dazzy Vance
1939	Chattanooga, Southern Assn	Kiki Cuyler	Rogers Hornsby
1950	Kansas City, American Assn	Whitey Ford	Johnny Mize

We have two entries in the special category; (1) 1885 Haverhill, Eastern New England Lg; Tom McCarthy & Wilbert Robinson (HOF as mgr) plus Frank Selee was mgr of the team and in the HOF as mgr; (2) 1911 Toledo, American Assn; Elmer Flick & Joe McCarthy (HOF as mgr).

It was mentioned in a previous newsletter that Stew Thornley has come up with a list of Hall of Famers who were connected with Minneapolis as players, managers and coaches. Let' s have some more committee members submit lists for their cities. Your lists can include players in more than one league in which your city was a member. If we get a few lists we will publish them.

### **Minor League Baseball Stars, Volume IV**

Ron Selter has submitted career records for the following players:

Cliff Aberson	Carroll Gholson	Alfredo Jimenez	Edwin Roberts
Ed Barbarito	Robert Hobbs	Herman Lewis	Dick West
Leon Cato	Richard Hogan	Patricio Lorenzo	Allen Weygandt
Gil Coan	Dan Howard	Angel Macias	Paul Zaby
Eduardo Escalante	Isiah Jackson	Les Mulcahy	Jim Zapp

### **Can't Find a Dry Ball**

We recently received a flyer for a book with the above title. It is about the players on the Evansville Otters of the independent Frontier League. It covers their daily life during the 2001 season - riding busses, eating on \$12 per day and other adventures. The book was written by Garret Mathews and published by Albion Press. It sells for \$18.95 and is available at amazon.com.

### **California League Notes**

Bill Weiss puts out a newsletter called, "California League Notes". There was an interesting tidbit in a recent issue about Matt Allegra of Visalia. It seems that Matt is a hot and cold batter. From April 5 thru 13 he went 22 for 39, for a .564 average. This won him the Batter of the Week award. From April 14 thru 21, he was 0 for 23. That calculates to an average of .000.

### **Artie Butler**

Bob McConnell was recently working on the career record for Artie Butler, with help from Ray Nemeec. We had a question about Butler' s start in the minors in New England. Bob wrote to one of our New England experts, Dick Thompson. Dick, in

turn, sent Bob a very interesting article on Butler. It consisted of an interview in September, 1982. It was claimed at the time that he was the oldest living major leaguer at age 95. The following are a few excerpts from the interview. Butler threw out a few pretty big names.

"I started in 1910 with Fall River in the New England League. I was sold to the Braves in 1911. They traded me to St. Paul for Harry Steinfeldt, the old third baseman from Chicago. Then I was sold to Pittsburgh. I was bought to replace Honus Wagner, and he wanted me as a roommate. He showed me a lot of things about what I should do around second base. At shortstop, he had the best hands. His glove was a piece of leather, not like the butterfly nets they wear nowadays."

About Grover Cleveland Alexander. "Once I spoiled his no hit game. I went up to hit for Hornsby (hit for Hornsby!) in 1916 and I had two strikes. When I got the next ball, I hit it up the middle for a single. He was a great pitcher, but I didn' t have trouble hitting him." About Christy Mathewson. "I made my first hit off of Christy Mathewson. That helped to win the ball game that day." "Jeff Tesreau was the toughest. He was a spitball pitcher and I always feared spitball pitchers. You never knew where the ball was going." About John McGraw. "McGraw was a bench jockey. He used to make enemies with other team' s ballplayers by bringing up things from the past. Most ballplayers didn' t like him. He was a mean man."

About Roger Hornsby. "I remember when he came up to the big leagues. He was a rookie and rookies that weren' t in the starting lineup had to shag balls in the outfield instead of taking batting practice. Well, Hornsby said he was a hitter, not a shagger. So I gave him my time to hit and he became the greatest right handed hitter in the history of baseball. I remember when he came up to the Cardinals. He had a dollar suitcase in one hand and a pair of dice in the other. He was a crap shooter from Texas." "Honus Wagner, he was the best. He was like a magnet in the infield." On modern home runs, "You call them home runs. I call them pop flies over the 300 foot fence. There is more excitement with a hit through the infield."

### **Cabrera Hits 44 Home Runs During 2000 Season, and Out of Organized Baseball in 2001!**

Alex Cabrera hit 39 home runs in the minor leagues during the 2000 season, plus 5 for the Arizona Diamondbacks, yet he did not play in Organized Baseball last season.

Cabrera had a very interesting season in 2000 - you might call it a rollercoaster season, and he has had an interesting career. He was born in Caripito, Venezuela on December 24, 1971. He was signed by the Chicago Cubs in 1991 and played in their farm system thru 1996. His performance was somewhat mediocre and he never rose above Class A. After being released by the Cubs, he played in the Mexican League in 1997 and 1998. He spent the 1999 season in a pro league in Taiwan. The Diamondbacks signed him for the 2000 season and assigned him to their farm club at Tucson in the Pacific Coast League.

At the end of April, Cabrera was demoted to the El Paso Diablos in the Class AA Texas League. Then the fireworks started. In 53 games with the Diablos, he hit .382 with 35 home runs and 82 RBIs. During a six game stretch from May 9 thru the 14th, he was 16 for 27 for a .593 average with 12 runs, 9 home runs and 20 RBI. He had at least two hits and one home run in each of the six games. The feat of hitting home runs in six consecutive games was one short of the Texas League record. There was a period in the games of the 11th and 12th when he hit five home runs in six at bats. After his three home run game on the 12th, he told reporters that he had been told he was being sent down to El Paso for three or four weeks, but, "I don' t want to go back to AAA. I just want to stay here."

He was called up to the big show in late June and it appeared that he was going to tear the National League apart. His first at bat came as a pinch hitter on June 26 and he hit a homer. He was in the starting lineup the following day and hit a triple in his first at bat. (He is only the second player in major league history to hit a homer and a triple in his first two at bats). After one week, Alex was batting .571 with four home runs and 13 RBIs. During batting practice, he would put on a show ala Mark McGwire with his long drives, which had the fans oohing and aahing.

However, he injured himself in early July and was on the Disabled List for two weeks. After a two game rehabilitation assignment in the Arizona Rookie League, he returned to the Diamondbacks lineup. Shortly afterward, he went into a batting slump. He was sent down to Tucson after going 2 for 22. A week later he was recalled and finished the season with the Diamondbacks.

For the season, Cabrera hit .263 with 5 HR in the National League, .282 with 4 HR in the Pacific Coast League and .200 with no HR in the Arizona Rookie League. In spite of playing in only 53 games in the Texas League, his 35 HR led the league. His HR Average (HR per 600 ABs) in the Texas League was a sensational 99.06. His overall minor league HR Average for the season, playing in three leagues, was 79.32. This is the 5th best of all time. (Joe Bauman holds the record with 86.75, set in 1954). *Baseball Weekly* selected Cabrera as Minor League Player of the Year.

This story probably does not have a happy ending. Cabrera was suspected of using steroids and was being investigated by Major League Baseball. This prompted Arizona to sell his contract to the Seibu Lions of the Japanese Pacific League. He did have a good year in Japan in 2001 with 49 home runs.

Thanks to Tom Kayser for supplying the details of Cabrera's six game spree in the Texas League.

### Long Time Service Players

A reporter from ESPN called recently and asked, "What player has played in the minors for the most years without ever playing in the majors?" I did not know the answer. Perhaps some of you know the answer. While we are at it, how about a player with the most years of minor league service even if he did play in the majors. Also, what player played on the most different minor league teams during his career? Send your answers to Bob McConnell or e-mail Reed Howard.

### Determining Batting Champions

The awarding of batting championships has been a tricky endeavor over the years. Even in the major leagues, the qualifications have changed from time to time. Eugene Hargrave was declared batting champ in the National League in 1926 in spite of playing in only 105 games with 326 AB. Debs Garms was the NL champ in 1940 with 103 games and 358 AB. Ernie Lombardi led the NL in 1942 while playing in 105 games with 309 AB. In the cases of Hargrave and Lombardi, the reasoning seemed to have been that they were catchers and not expected to play in as many games as other players.

There has been a hodge podge of qualifications over the years. At one time, the vague qualification was that the champ had to be a "regular". A qualification was added to the scoring rules in 1950. It was that the champ had to appear in 2/3 of his team's games. This reflected the standard that had been used by most leagues for many years prior to that time. Some leagues had used a 100 game minimum, regardless of whether the league played a 200 game schedule or a 120 game schedule! Some champs were determined at the whim of the league president. The major leagues changed their qualification in 1957 to 3.1 Plate Appearances times league games scheduled (PA = AB + BB + HBP + SH + SF). The minor leagues went to 2.7 PA times Games in 1974.

Bob Hoie has done a great deal of research on questionable and disputed batting champs. He has been urged to write a feature length article on the subject. Bob has submitted a list as carried in *The Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball* where they do not agree with at least one other source.

On the line listing League, G = games scheduled for each team. In some cases, this figure was estimated based on the W-L records of the teams in the league. PA = plate appearances required to qualify for the batting title. It is based on the present day major league formula of Games Scheduled times 3.1.

On the line listing players, %G = percent of games played to the total games played by his team. Where total plate appearances cannot be determined the following codes are used: # - BB & HBP not included; @ - BB not included; + - HBP not included. The first player listed for each league was the batting champ per the Encyclopedia. Notes include the source, other than the Encyclopedia, crediting the player with the batting title: OR - Official Record; RG - Reach Guide; SG - Spink Guide; CG - Commissioner's Guide; LRB - League Record Book.

		<u>G</u>	<u>%G</u>	<u>AB</u>	<u>PA</u>	<u>BA</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1920	South Atlantic League	130			403		
	Clarence Marshall, Charlotte	103	82	375	424	.315	
	Jake Munch, Charlotte	71	56	275	314	.364	OR
1921	Pacific Coast League	188			583		
	Hack Miller, Oakland	184	98	726	745#	.347	LRB
	Duffy Lewis, Salt Lake City	105	57	424	432#	.403	OR
1922	American Association	168			521		
	Beals Becker, Kansas City	158	93	621	719	.367	
	Glenn Myatt, Milwaukee	121	72	370	429	.370	OR; LRB; caught 111 G
1922	Blue Grass League	65			202		
	M. J. Hogan, Winchester	33	52	118	121#	.356	
	Ray Class, Maysville	58	94	237	245#	.333	OR
1922	Eastern Canada League	126			391		

	Norman Sauvage, Cape Madeleine	127	98	496	507#	.331	
	Gus Swentor, Cape Madeleine	91	71	355	365#	.338	OR
1922	Florida State League	120			372		
	Elliott Bigelow, St. Petersburg	114	99	437	496	.343	
	George Block, St. Petersburg	87	76	280	315	.411	OR; caught 68 G
1922	International League	168			521		
	Frank Gilhooley, Reading	164	98	636	764	.362	
	Bob Fothergill, Rochester	101	60	397	440	.383	OR
1923	Appalachian League	110			341		
	Walt Mittwede, Morristown	104	99	389	423	.344	
	Earle Williams, Morristown	88	84	233	267	.356	OR
1923	Florida State League	120			372		
	Al Green, Orlando	116	100	445	500	.382	
	Herb Thomas, Daytona	74	63	297	334	.387	OR
1925	American Association	168			521		
	Joe Guyon, Louisville	157	93	628	740	.363	
	Eddie Murphy, Columbus	100	60	390	446	.397	OR; LRB
1926	Pacific Coast League	202			626		
	Buzz Arlett, Oakland	194	96	667	683#	.382	
	Bill Bagwell, Portland	156	78	450	455#	.391	OR; LRB
1927	Florida State League	130			403		
	Faustin Casaras, Miami	112	88	402	461	.318	
	Jim Bryan, St. Petersburg	76	62	301	333	.362	OR; RG
1928	Nebraska State League	120			372		
	John Stoneham, McCook	96	79	374	423	.396	RG
	Victor Shiell, McCook	121	100	447	517	.365	OR
1929	American Association	168			521		
	Dusty Cooke, St. Paul	152	90	564	689	.358	
	Eugene Hargrave, St. Paul	104	62	317	388	.369	OR; RG; caught 88 G
	Art Ruble, Toledo	89	53	367	403	.376	LRB
1930	American Association	154			477		
	Bevo LeBourveau, Toledo	138	90	526	610	.380	
	Charles High, Minneapolis	104	68	275	335	.382	OR; RG
1930	Eastern League	171			530		
	Joe Kelly, New Haven	99	100	400	447	.373	team played only 99 G
	Bruce Caldwell, Albany	87	51	321	367	.380	OR; RG
1930	Middle Atlantic League	120			372		
	Joe Medwick, Scottdale	75	65	332	349	.419	
	Frank Doljack, Wheeling	116	99	456	511	.386	OR; RG
1931	American Association	168			521		
	Art Shires, Milwaukee	157	92	623	698	.385	
	Gus Dugas, Kansas City	93	55	327	359	.419	OR; RG; LRB
1931	Western Association	150			465		
	Ab Wright, Muskogee	113	76	488	508	.359	
	Bill Norman, Muskogee	97	65	376	402	.362	OR; RG

1932	Mississippi Valley League	128			397			
	Brown Braly, Keokuk	83	65	318	318#	.374		
	Bill Mizeur, Cedar Rapids	116	93	445	447#	.335	OR	
	Maurice Archdeacon, Dubuque	112	88	426	437#	.338	RG	
1932	Western League	154			477			
	Jim Oglesby, Des Moines	99	69	405	410#	.385		
	Bill Allington, Pueblo	153	100	569	576#	.374	OR; RG; LRB	
1935	Western League	116			360			
	Hall Epps, Cedar Rapids	57	51	231	234#	.346		
	Earl Bruckner, St. Joseph	84	79	298	299#	.342	OR; LRB; caught 79 G	
	Charles Clements, Council Bluffs	96	95	341	393#	.330	LRB	
1936	American Association	154			477			
	Tom Winsett, Columbus	141	92	536	594+	.354		
	Vern Washington, St. Paul	73	48	305	317+	.390	OR; RG	
1937	Nebraska State League	120			372			
	Leon Riley, Beatrice	114	99	393	512+	.372		
	H. C. McKain, Fairbury	82	69	273	295+	.381	OR	
1938	Canadian-American League	126			391			
	Bill Homan, Auburn	84	69	406	465	.389		
	Charles Harig, Auburn	109	90	421	468	.385	OR	
1940	Alabama Sate League*	130			403			
	Emory Lindsey, Tallassee	125	96	486	542	.350	OR; RG	
	Gordon Goodell, Tallassee	91	70	362	432	.376		
1942	Pennsylvania State Association	114			353			
	Dallas Warren, Butler	72	65	217	256	.359	SG; caught 59 G	
	John Jerina, Butler	107	97	423	493	.357	CG	
1942	Western Association	135			419			
	Harry Heslet, Joplin	87	65	309	310@	.343		
	Harry Clements, Muskogee	136	100	551	565@	.341	OR	

\* For the 1940 Alabama State League, the Guide stated that Goodell was not eligible for the batting title because he did not play in 2/3 of his team' s games. This was an error since he played in 70% of his team' s games.

Comments by Bob Hoie:

1921	PCL	TSN 11/11/20 carried a historic listing of PCL batting champions, which obviously was based on the "regular" criteria, since five players played in less than 100 games, including Brashear with only 65 in 1906. This carried forward to 1921 when Lewis was the official leader.						
1922	AA	Myatt was apparently champion on the 2/3 rule (The AA seems to have changed criteria frequently).						
1926	PCL	When Bill Schroeder prepared the first PCL record book in 1940 he established a 125 game minimum, retroactively. In the early 1950s the new PCL record book set a 450 AB minimum. Bagwell qualified under both, plus 2/3, plus 100.						
1928	Neb. State	TSN said there was a 100 game minimum although the league president would have been justified in giving it to Stoneham, who no matter what he did in the additional four games wouldn' t drop 31 points.						
1929	AA	I believe the standard this year was 100 games - this is the only case where the AA LRB goes counter to the official leader, taking the logical position that Ruble had more hits and a higher batting average than Margrave.						
1931	WA	Since the official stats did not include 20 games from Muskogee, TSN suggested in Feb. 1932 that Wright should be considered the batting champion, since the Howe final unofficial stats were more complete (this position was taken in <i>Minor League Stars</i> ). The Howe stats had Wright at .376, Norman at .373.						

1932	Miss. Valley	The official statistician was late getting out the stats, so the Guides used the final unofficial stats. The League had a 100 game minimum and Mizeur was the official leader at .360, Archdeacon .337. Braly at .375 in 87 games didn't qualify.
1932	Western	Same situation as 1928 Neb. State (LRB lists Allington).
1935	Western	The LRB published in 1951 listed Brucker as the batting champion.
1936	AA	Before the season, the AA established a 300 AB minimum. After the season there was an effort to give Winsett the title, but the League voted to uphold the original standard.

Hoie has been unable to come up with the official champs for the 1921 Western Canada Lg., 1922 Cotton States Lg., 1922 Eastern Shore Lg., 1932 Eastern Lg. (folded during season), 1934 Central Lg. (folded during season) and 1942 Pennsylvania State Assn. Can anyone help?

We welcome comments on this subject:

Should we leave the records alone?

Should we list more than one champion?

Should SABR determine its own criteria and declare champions? Using what criteria?

Should catchers have lower PA standards?

Mail your comments to Bob McConnell, or by e-mail to Reed Howard.

### **Minor League Reunion**

Clint Chafin is again planning to organize a Georgia-Florida League Reunion. This year it will be expanded to include the Georgia State League and the Georgia-Alabama League. It is scheduled for the week-end starting August 16. For details contact Cliff at cchafin@surfsouth.com or by telephone: (home) (229) 985-9723; (work) (229) 985-1148.

### **Double Digit Dunn**

Adam Dunn reached double digits in home runs at three levels last season. He started the season at class AA Chattanooga in the Southern League and hit 12 homers in 39 games. He was then promoted to Louisville in the class AAA International League where he hit 20 home runs in 55 games. This earned him a call up to Cincinnati. Major League pitching didn't slow him down much as he added 19 more homers to his collection. This was all at age 21. The only players to reach the 50 mark in home runs in a season in OB at a younger age were Tony Lazzeri in 1925 (27 days younger) and Calvin Felix in 1947 (4 days younger). Keep an eye on Dunn this season. The major league record for most home runs at age 22 is 46 by Joe DiMaggio in 1937. The National League record is 45 by Johnny Bench in 1970.

It was initially reported that Dunn was the first player to reach double digits in two minors plus the majors in one season. However, Erubiel Durazo did it in 1999 although his totals were not nearly as high as Dunn's. He hit 14 for El Paso, Texas League; 10 for Tucson, Pacific Coast League and 11 for Arizona, National League.

### **Western League versus Western Association**

There is some disagreement in the published records on names Western League and Western Association in the 19th Century. Bob Hoie has recently done extensive research on the subject and this is a result of his research:

#### **Western League**

1885	Founded 2/11/85. Territory was about the same as the 20th Century American Association. Folded 6/15/85.
1886-88	Founded 3/27/86. Territory was in Colorado, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. Reorganized 2/26/87. Folded 6/21/88.
1892	Founded 1/21/92. Territory was about the same as the Western Association of 1891. Folded 7/15/92.
1893	Founded 5/14/93. Territory was in Kansas and Missouri. Folded 6/20/93.
1894-99	Founded 11/20/93. Ban Johnson was president during the entire period. Territory was about the same as in the 1885 Western League. Johnson changed the name to the American League in 1900 and declared it a major league in 1901.
1900-01	Founded by Tom Hickey who had been president of the Western Association in 1899. Territory was in Colorado, Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska.

#### **Western Association**

1888-91	Founded 10/28/87. Territory included several cities from the 1885 Western League. Folded 9/14/91, several days before the scheduled close of the season.
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- 1894-99      Founded 1/9/94. Territory included some cities from the defunct Two I League. Suspended operations on 6/28/98. Restarted for the 1899 season. Folded 6/17/99.
- 1901            Replaced the Inter-State League of 1900.

The minor leagues came under the umbrella of the National Association in 1902. There is no disagreement regarding the Western League and the Western Association from that point forward. However, the two leagues had a few organizational changes and the following is a brief rundown:

#### Western League

- 1902-37      Class A League. This was the highest classification thru 1911. In 1912, three leagues moved up to a new Class AA status, making the Western League a second highest ranking league.
- 1939-41      The Nebraska State League of 1938 changed its name to the Western League. It had been a Class D league, and remained as Class D.
- 1947-58      Class A league (now third from top). Territory included a number of cities that had been in the 1902-37 league.

#### Western Association

- 1905-10      President Shiveley of the 1904 Missouri Valley League took five of his cities and founded the Western Association, a Class C league.
- 1911            Class D league
- 1914-17      Class D league
- 1920-21      Class D league
- 1922-32      Class C league
- 1934-42      Class C league
- 1946-54      Class C league

#### **1896 Naugatuck Valley League**

The last newsletter carried a list of league summaries needed, and included the 1896 Connecticut League. This league was called the Naugatuck Valley League for that one year and then went back to it' s old name the next year. It has been summarized by Frank Williams.

#### **Jud Smith's Record**

Grant Judson Smith' s playing career spanned two centuries. He played in the minors from 1890 thru 1909, with a couple of brief stops in the National League along the way. His career record appears in *The Minor League Register*, but it has many gaps in the stats. Carlos Bauer and Bob Hoie have recently done a great deal of research on Smith. Some of the biographical data has been corrected and almost all of the statistical gaps have been filled. Still missing are stats for 16 games for LaGrande in the 1891 Pacific Interstate Lg., and 56 games for Butte in the 1892 Montana State Lg. Smith is now credited with 1493 runs, 2445 hits, 440 doubles and 485 stolen bases for his minor league career. These numbers put him among the elite.

#### **Book Review: Gateway to the Majors**

*Gateway to the Majors*; by James P. Quigel, Jr. & Louis E. Hunsinger, Jr.; 2001; The Pennsylvania State University Press; 190 pages. Review by Bob McConnell.

This is a history of baseball in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. It starts with amateur ball in 1865. It continues with the first pro (independent) team in 1884, the first minor league team in 1886 and the 20th Century teams in the Tri-State, New York-Pennsylvania and Eastern Leagues. It covers semi-pro and amateur ball during the several gaps in it's minor league membership. The book works in a good overview of baseball in general during the first forty years after the Civil War. Little League Baseball, which was born in Williamsport, is covered briefly.

There are a few errors in the book, but they do not detract from the overall story. One criticism is that too much space is devoted to owners and boosters, to attract the local market, at the expense of on-the-field activities.

This is a well written book. There is an appendix listing all major leaguers who played for Williamsport. There is also a very thorough index.

#### **Availability of 20th Century Guides**

If you go to the SABR web site, click on Research and then the Minor League Committee, an e-mail form is displayed which allows the user to send questions to the Committee by e-mail to Reed Howard. We get a number of people requesting information a week by these means. We are able to respond with the requested information to most of them. One thing that would help us in responding to requests for large amounts of information would be to be able to direct them to a location where they could do their own research in the Baseball Guides. We know these are available at the Baseball Hall of Fame, at The Sporting News office in St. Louis, and several other locations. It would help us if you could let us know where else researchers could find these guides.

Here is a typical request, but one we could not handle. Can anyone give him some help?

"Where can you find information on the old Hawaii Islanders of the Pacific Coast League (1961-1987) especially the years they played in "old" Honolulu Stadium (1961-1975)? Who specializes in this team and where is a place to obtain memorabilia from that team? Is there a place where you can get the attendance figures from those years and any books written on them." Eensed@cs.com

### Amateur or Professional?

In 1892 Williams College complained to Dartmouth College about the playing of Frank O' Connor and his catcher Rainey. They had both entered Dartmouth after distinguished careers at the University of Vermont, and O' Connor had played professionally at least as early as 1888. Dartmouth responded by questioning why Williams College had only hired four members of the Holy Cross team.

### **Minor League Player Deaths reported through May 15, 2002- Issue #8**

Compiled by Ray Nemeec

<b>Player</b>	<b>Span</b>	<b>DOD / POD</b>	<b>Informant</b>
Bencina, Edward J.	1938/1939	3/14/02 Cleveland, OH	Kevin McGraw/Jerry Sulecki
Brown, Lynn John	1948	4/24/02 Spokane, WA	Jim Price
Burrell, Roy J, (Rusty)	1945/1947	4/18/02 Rosemead, CA	Bob Bailey
Coosev, Douglas Charles	1950/1955	8/13/01 Franklin, MI	Dave Chase
DeForge, Bernard V.	1937/1948	12/28/98 Hermitage, TN	Ray Nemeec
Francis, Chester E.	1941	1/23/02 Vincennes, IN	Pete Cava
Glosek, Joseph S.	1952	3/24/02 Bethlehem, PA	Ed Washuta
Graham, Hamilton	1945/1953	9/31/01 Bath, PA	Ray Nemeec
Hines, Walter Eugene	1950/1957	2/12/02 Omaha, NE	John Hall
Johnson, Duane L.	1997/1998	2/15/02 Phoenix, AZ	Dave Chase
Kahn, Louis	1936/1953	3/13/02 Albany, GA	Gary Nickels (SD Padres)
Knoblauch, Raymond M.	1947/1957	3/18/02 Houston, Texas	Dave Chase
Konev (Konieczny), Norm	1943/1949	6/22/01 Winter Springs, FL	Ray Nemeec
Mascaro, Frank J.	1948/1953	7/19/01 Nicolaus, CA	Ray Nemeec
McDoanld, Raymond K.	1962	3/19/02 La Grande, OR	Bill Carle
McGaha, Fred Melvin	1948/ 1958	2/3/02 Tulsa, OK	John Royster
McGovern, Joseph M.	1948/1951	3/24/02 Narragansett, RI	Steven Lawrence
Parent, Leo	1952/1955	3/31/02 Boston, MA	Charles Scoggins
Rickenbach, Paul E.	1948	4/8/02 Holland Twp, NJ	Ed Washuta
Robinson, Warren A.	1938/1953	4/5/02 Cambridge, MD	Bill Carle
Schoendienst, Elmer	1946/ 1949	11/18/01 St. Louis, MO	Tony Szabelski
Smith, James F.	1949/1957	1/17/01 Baton Rouge, LA	Ray Nemeec
Smith, Javson	1993/1994	2/6/02 Washington Ct House, OH	Dave Chase
Sugrue, Joseph F.	1937/1946	3/20/01 Waterbury, CT	Ray Nemeec
Sylvester, Blaine	1958*	3/11/02 So. Ogden, UT	Jay-Dell Mah
Taylor, Albert C.	1953/1955	2/8/02 Jamestown, NY	Bill Carle
Thome, Charles F.	1930	3/13/02 Phoenix, AZ	Joe Murphy
Uzee, Francis J.	1945	4/11/02 in Louisiana	Art Schott
Wisecup, John H.	1938/1946	9/25/01 Tokyo, Japan	Art Schott