Armando Roche Found

Armando Roche was one of the many Cuban players to try out for the Washington Senators. He pitched 2 games for the Senators in 1945. He has essentially been missing since the 1940s and it was assumed he was living in Cuba. Dan Dischley managed to find a Social Security number for Roche from some documents he had filled out when he was playing. I ran the Social Security number through the Social Security Death Index and found his death date in 1997. He was listed as living in Hammond, Indiana. I went to the web and found his obituary in a Hammond newspaper. The obituary noted that Roche had died in Chicago. These Cubans are sometimes tough to track down. Finding Roche earns Dan the Find of the Month award.

Did His Roommate Read Comic Books?

Pete Morris found an interesting note on George Pinckney, who played with several teams between 1884 and 1893. The note Pete found stated that Pinckney "is a devoted and powerful chess player, and he recreates himself with the Calculus and Spinoza's ethics." Sounds like your typical ballplayer reading material.

Sparrow Morton

Pete Morris found a rather confusing note about William P. (Sparrow) Morton. "Morton, who pitched for the Philadelphia club in a game against New York last week, is said to be a Fairmount Park 'Sparrow' and not a graduate of the Chambersburg club. It is also said that his real name is Morton More." Any of you Philadelphia folks want to check this out?

The Database

Dave Vincent has been busy redesigning our biographical database. It's going to be a relational database, meaning that rather than one big file as it is now, we will have several tables which relate to each other through use of a key. At present it looks like we will have 9 tables:

- Players - Name and biographical information
- Cities - Names of all the cities
- Cityold - Names of cities and their previous name for cities which have changed names
- Player Notes - Biographical notes on players who are missing
- Player Teams - The players and the teams he played for
- Real Name - The real names of players who changed their names
- Relative - A cross reference of players who are related to each other
- States - A table of all states and countries
- Teamconv - A list of abbreviations for all teams

This may sound confusing but it will be much easier to find information and produce reports. We aren't done yet. (I say "we" but Dave is doing all the work.) Since we are using Microsoft Access rather than Dbase III, it will also be Windows compatible and will use a much more modern database system. I really appreciate Dave's help with this project.

Coming Attractions

This has actually been a rather dead month for biographical data. I'm stalking Cappy Gagnon's biography of Richard Paul "Red" Smith. I hope you enjoy the story. Next month will feature the excitement of listing all the 1999 rookies. I still wish I knew why it is so difficult to find such things as a middle name for a player who debuts in 1999. However, there are some interesting names among the rookies so stay tuned.
Birthday List

There are several 90 year olds celebrating birthdays in September and October if you'd like to send a card.

September 2  Ben Sankey  92
September 5  Bill Musser  94
September 8  Frank Stewart  93
September 17  Ernie Koy  90
September 19  Frank Reiber  90
September 25  Paul Hopkins  95
October 5  Anthony Malinosky  90
October 15  Mel Harder  90
October 18  Andrea Spognardi  91
October 28  Henry Boney  96

The Mystical Mr. Kelly

Pete Morris brings us our Mystery of the Month. An old time ballplayer by the name of Theodore F. "Toots" Kelly died on February 16, 1884 in Jacksonville, Florida. Kelly is listed as having begun his baseball career with the Mystic Club of Yorkville in 1858, and later with the champion Active club of New York along with Al Wright, and Kelly's famous ballplaying brothers Billy and Ed. In Preston Orem's book, there is a listing of the personnel of the Actives in 1868 which includes H. Kelley, 1B, W. Kelley, C, and T. Kelley, 2B. It seems likely that W. Kelley is the missing 1871 Fort Wayne player; if so, this suggests several possible leads on him including looking in Yorkville, checking Jacksonville for a more detailed obituary that may say more about Bill, and looking in Florida to see if the whole family had relocated there.
<table>
<thead>
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<th></th>
<th>IN</th>
<th>OUT</th>
<th>PCT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>67</td>
<td>99.557</td>
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<td>Total Complete Deaths</td>
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<td>438</td>
<td>49.848</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>92.1548</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

1884 Baker, Charles A.  
Name: Charles Arthur Baker  
B: West Boylston, Massachusetts  
(C1)

New Information Received:

1958 Alvarez, Osvaldo (Gonzalez)  
B: Bolondon, Cuba  
Debut: Sep 13 1996  
D: Aug 19 1999  
Redlands, California  
(D7)  
(V1)  
(C1)

1924 Foreman, August  
Name: August G. Foreman  
D: Redwood City, California  
Mettairie, Louisiana  
(D7)  
(L5)  
(O2)

1956 Garber, Robert Mitchell  
1935 George, Charles Peter  
Real Name: Edward Herbert Marshall  
Name: Saturnino Orestes Armas (Arrieta)  
Name: Saturnino Orestes Armas (Arrieta)  
(M4)  
(P1)

1923 Hargreaves, Charles Russell  
D: Aug 17 1999  
Fredericksburg, Virginia  
(C1)  
(V1)

1945 Hefflin, Randolph Rutherford  
B: Oct 11 1965  
Febrary 1931  
(D7)

1956 Hernandez, Gregorio Evelio (Lopez)  
1998 Hernandez, Orlando P.  
Real Name: Byron Joseph LaForest  
(D7)

1945 LaForest, Byron Joseph  
B: Dec 24 1931  
(D7)

1929 Marshall, Edward Herbert  
Name: Edward Herbert Marshall  
(D7)

1949 Minoso, Saturnino Orestes Armas  
(D7)

1950 Moreno, Julio (Gonzalez)  
Armas  
(C1)

1996 Mottola, Charles Edward  
(B: Mar 13 1999  
(D7)

1942 Peterman, William David  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
(C1)

1940 Reese, Harold Henry  
(C1)

1945 Roche, Armando (Baez)  
(D: Aug 14 1999  
(E: 26 1997  
(C1)

1996 Rodriguez, Nerio  
(D: Jun 16 1997  
(C1)

1964 Ruiz, Hiraldo (Sablon)  
Chicago, Illinois  
(D: May 11 1999  
(D: 6 1999  
(D: 6 1999  
(D6)

1951 Taylor, Benjamin Eugene  
Alma, Oklahoma  
(D6)

1995 Valdez, Carlos Luis (Lorenzo)  
B: Nizao Bani, Dominican Republic  
(D: Aug 8 1999  
(C1)  
(L5)

1940 Walker, Harry William  
Birmingham, Alabama  
(C1)

1929 Wyatt, John Whidow  
(C1)

1944 York, Anthony Batton  
Carrolton, Georgia  
Name: Tony Batton York  
(C1)
RICHARD PAUL "RED" SMITH

B. May 18, 1904, Brokaw, WI  D. March 8, 1978, Toledo, OH  (73)
Height: 5' 11"; Weight: 195 BR/TR  Baseball and Brewery Executive
Attended Lawrence University, 1922-23 and Notre Dame 1923-1927; receiving a B.A. Degree.

There were two young men named Smith, from small towns in Wisconsin, enrolled in the class of 1927 at Notre Dame. Both were nicknamed "Red". Although they grew up within a few miles of each other, the two men did not meet until they came went to ND. Richard Paul Smith starred on both the football and baseball teams. He would be active in sports for nearly 50 years. Walter Wellesley Smith was the most famous sports writer in American Journalism ("there's no heavy lifting"), becoming the first sportswriter to win a Pulitzer Prize.

Dick Smith graduated from Kaukauna High School, in Combined Locks (WI), in 1922. He spent a year at Lawrence University, playing guard on their undefeated football team, before transferring to Notre Dame.

Red played both guard and fullback for the Irish. In another "Smith oddity", the second team guards for Knute Rockne's 1925 team were Richard "Red" Smith and John "Clipper" Smith. Both men later served many years as college football coaches. Both men had to share their nicknames, since John was the "Little Clipper", to Maurice "Big Clipper" Smith, who preceded him by seven years at Notre Dame.

The two Red Smith's crossed paths often over the years. Red the Writer always referred to his classmate as "The Imposter". Writing in To Absent Friends, he described his classmate as "...large and round and companionable and patient. Because he was less explosive tempera-
mentally than Jim Gallagher, the Cubs' general manager, and could consume even more beer than Charlie Grimm, the manager, he was assigned to sit up nights with executives of other clubs in the hope that they might grow mellow enough to trade him a 20-game winner or .325 hitter for a round of drinks and a player to be named later."

According to Red the Scribe, The Imposter "...was the last survivor of a jocund company that doubled the flavor and doubled the fun of the sports beat in his time. Ovish Steve Owen, his burly boss; Jack Lavelle, the incomparable raconteur who scouted pro teams for the Giants and undergraduates for Notre Dame; Herman Hickman, waggish and scholarly, who was Red Blaik's assistant at West Point before he became head coach at Yale; and Toots Shor, host to all of them---they were immense and mirthful and almost inseparable, and together they had the weight to stop an express train."
Richard P. Smith made his Major League debut, on May 31, 1927, against the Philadelphia Phillies, only one day after arriving from his graduation from Notre Dame. He was a defensive replacement, for catcher Mickey O'Neill, in the 9th inning of a 13-4 win. Red's Major League statistics consisted of one putout.

The 1927 Giants had a star-studded lineup. Only George Harper of the first seven men in the lineup failed to make the Hall of Fame—and he hit .331 in 1927. Harper was starting only because of the terminal illness which would claim the life of future Hall of Famer Ross Youngs. Despite having Edd Roush (cf), Freddie Lindstrom (3b); Harper (rf), Rogers Hornsby (2b), Bill Terry (1b); Mel Ott (lf); and Travis Jackson (ss), the Giants finished in third place. And Hall of Fame pitcher Burleigh Grimes was also on that team. Tough league!

Red caught for the Giants against St. Bonaventure College, the day after his debut, in the dedication game for McGraw-Jennings Field. A week later, in Toledo, he was the catcher in an exhibition game honoring Roger Bresnahan. Casey Stengel was the Toledo right fielder.

After the baseball season, Red began his pro football career, where he played mostly fullback:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Games</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1927</td>
<td>Green Bay Packers</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Coached by Curly Lambeau (Notre Dame)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>New York Giants</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Teammates: Red Badgro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>New York Yankees</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Teammates: Ox Eckhart, Ray Flaherty, Cal Hubbard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929</td>
<td>Green Bay Packers</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Teammates: Curly Lambeau, Johnny Blood McNally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>Newark Tornadoes</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>New York Giants</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Coached by Steve Owen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

He coached football at Georgetown University in 1930. He served as Athletic Director for Seton Hall, 1931-32. From 1933 through 1935, he was the line coach at the University of Wisconsin. From 1936 through 1943, he was the line coach of the Green Bay Packers, followed by six years in the same capacity with the New York Giants.

Along with those football duties, Red was in minor league baseball during most Summers. His top Minor League seasons were 1928, when he hit .292 for Montreal and 1936, when he hit .357 in 45 games as Playing Manager for Fieldale (VA). A weak throwing arm ended Red's chances for a longer playing career. On May 14, 1936, Indianapolis base runners stole 10 bases off him, when he served as a fill-in catcher. For 464 Minor League games, Red had a combined batting average of .284.


Red discovered future Major League star Kenny Keitner, playing sandlot ball in Milwaukee.

Red won his first pennant as a player-manager, with Hopkinsville (KY) of the KITTY League, in 1938. He piloted Green Bay to a 76-35 (.685) record in 1941. This was the highest winning percentage in the history of the Wisconsin State League. He advanced to the American Association, as a coach with Milwaukee, for 1943 and 1944.

Red was a coach with the Chicago Cubs from 1945 through 1949. He returned to Milwaukee for the next three years, as President and General Manager of the American Association Brewers, before moving to Toledo in the same capacity, when Milwaukee was awarded a Major League team. His 1953 Toledo Sox set the 1953 Minor League attendance record.

Red became General Manager of Buckeye Brewing in 1955, moving up through the ranks to President and Chairman of the Board, during the next 12 years. When the company was purchased by Meister Brau, in 1966, Red was named Assistant to the President, in charge of coordinating sports promotions.

He received many honors for his contribution to sports. He was named to the Greater Toledo Athletic Hall of Fame and received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Football Foundation.

Red passed away, in Toledo, on March 8, 1978. He was 73.