SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER
SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN BASEBALL RESEARCH

June 2016

GREETINGS, NEW ENGLAND SABR-ITES!

In the newsletter I sent you last year at this time, I wrote that the new owners of the Pawtucket Red Sox expected to be playing in a new ballpark by 2017 and that our days under a picnic tent at McCoy Stadium were dwindling. Since then, the owners have pulled back on that prediction, and it appears that we’ll be at McCoy in June for some meetings to come.

The next one, as you already know, will take place on Saturday, June 25. It will begin at 10:30 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. At 6:05 p.m. the Pawtucket Red Sox will play the Scranton/Wilkes Barre Rail Riders, the Yankees’ top farm team. If you want to go to the game, you can order tickets at tickets.pawsox.com/tickets/order/, or by phone at 401-724-7300.

The speakers list as of now will be all Pawsox. Dr. Charles Steinberg, now the president of the club, will be there, as will old friend Mike Tamburro, manager Kevin Boles, and maybe – just maybe – Rich Gedman. Also, I asked that Pawsox chairman Larry Lucchino visit us if he is around that day, and was told the request would be passed along to him.

Because we don’t know exactly how much time the Pawsox speakers will need, the rest of the schedule is a bit flexible. We have one research presentation scheduled, by Alan Cohen (topic TBA). Ideally, we would have room for two more, with the understanding that if things get tight, one of the presentations would be put on hold, guaranteed a spot at our November meeting. So let me know if you’re interested in making a presentation. Please understand that we have to limit presentations to 15 minutes.

Of course there will be time for Father Gerry Beirne’s trivia quiz. The topic will be New England-born catchers. And for the book raffle (and sale afterward). Also, if you have books to sell, bring them along; we’ll make a place for you.

In my email to you the other day, I stressed the need to RSVP promptly if you plan to attend the meeting. Let me repeat that message here: The Pawsox need a head count from us earlier than they have gotten it in the past. This is because the new ownership is now purchasing food earlier than before. The result is that I need an RSVP from you no later than June 15. I cannot stress the importance of this enough. We are dealing with a new ownership and we want to make sure things go smoothly.

Len Levin
We’re the best!

In case you hadn’t noticed, two of the three winners of the 2016 McFarland-SABR Research Award are members of our chapter. The award is presented for the best articles on baseball history or biography written or published during the previous calendar year. Stand up and take a bow, Duke Goldman and Bill Lamb. Duke got his award for “The Double Victory Campaign and the Campaign to Integrate Baseball,” a chapter in the SABR book Who’s on First: Replacement Players in World War II. Bill’s award was for “Jury Nullification and the Not Guilty Verdicts in the Black Sox Case,” published in the Fall 2015 issue of SABR’s Baseball Research Journal.

Midseason baseball book roundup

Here, from John Vorperian, are some quick hits from the sports literary world all about the Diamond game. John suggests reading this comment by the late Chicago Cubs owner Philip Wrigley to set the stage for the first two reviews: “Baseball is too much of a sport to be called a business, and too much of a business to be called a sport.”

The Great Baseball Revolt: The Rise and Fall of the 1890 Players League, by Robert Ross (University of Nebraska Press). Workers, ah rather ballplayers, of the World, Unite! One year, one year only, in response to the despised “reserve rule” and stingy salary cap, athletes formed their own pro circuit. Led by John Montgomery Ward et al., the Players League competed against the established National League. Billed as a working-class league and drawing better attendance than the NL, the star-studded Players League got trumped by the NL’s deep pockets, media spinmeisters, legal mouthpieces, and – believe it or not – organized labor!

Baseball’s Power Shift: How The Players Union, The Fans, and The Media Changed American Sports Culture, by Krister Swanson (University of Nebraska Press). Fast-forward to 1966, when Koufax and Drysdale staged a joint holdout and had public support. And now up to 1981, the Supreme Court hears Curt Flood, the Major League Baseball Players Association gets born, and it’s a 3-2 count (3 strikes, 2 lockouts) on MLB. Critical economic assessment and social roadmap on how ballplayers jumped from peons to million-dollar-plus craftsmen, all with the backing of average seamheads like us.

Two more titles from the “Little Publishing House on the Prairie”:

Dodgerland: Decadent Los Angeles and the 1977-78 Dodgers, by Michael Fallon. Here’s a “Kurosawa-like” page-turner. Relive those two disco-era seasons when the boys in blue, Sutton, Garvey, Lopes, and Yeager, battled the Bronx Bombers in consecutive World Series. But let the tale be told by four men who represent different aspects of the Southern Cal story. Bleed Blue with Mayor Tom Bradley, Author Tom Wolfe, Field General Tommy Lasorda and small-business owner Tom Fallon.

Playing with Tigers: A Minor League Chronicle of the Sixties, by George Gmelch. In 1965 a suburban San Francisco denizen inked a deal with Motown’s Bengal organization. After four seasons of trying to get to “The Show,” he goes on to an academic career. But what was minor-
league ball like in the Jim Crow South for a youngster from the generation that would challenge the nation to reconsider its backward civil rights and warlike foreign policies?

*Did the Wrong Team Leave Town?*

**When The Braves Ruled The Diamond: Fourteen Flags Over Atlanta**, by Dan Schlossberg (Sports Publishing). From 1991 to 2005 the NL pennant consecutively flew over the MLB ballpark in Georgia's capital. No other pro sports club matches that mark. And no other sports scribe but Braves Banter’s Dan Schlossberg can better give the account of a record that may never ever be broken.

*Bad Boys, Bad Boys, what are they doing now?*

**Kings of Queens: Life Beyond Baseball with the ’86 Mets**, by Erik Sherman (Berkley). Last season the Metropolitans amazed fans with a comeback to nab their fifth pennant and were drawing comparisons to the 1986 World Series champions. Just in time for the 30th anniversary, Mookie co-author Sherman caught up with most of the famous or, depending on your take, infamous Met players. Gooden, Hernandez, Johnson, Strawberry, Backman, all talked about their careers since that key year. Any wonder that Charlie Sheen and Lenny Dykstra are best buds?

John Vorperian is host and executive producer of BEYOND THE GAME, a community-syndicated sports history cable television program based in New York and seen in various parts of the U.S.A and on the net: [www.wpcommunitymedia.org](http://www.wpcommunitymedia.org). Between shows John occasionally daydreams about being discovered as the next great closer for the Pittsburgh Pirates.

**Trivia**

**Speedster.** Who is the only player to have hit an inside-the-park home run in an All-Star Game?

**Blaster.** Who is the most recent player to have five consecutive 40-homer seasons?

**Runners-Up.** Whitey Ford led the American League in 1956 with a 2.47 ERA. Who were the three Indians who were second, third, and fourth?

**Wallops.** Which left-handed Hall of Fame pitcher gave up the most home runs to Willie Mays?

**Big numbers.** As of the 2015 season, who was the last pitcher to lead either league in earned-run average with an ERA higher than 3.00? (Alert: Boston connection)

**A toughie.** Who is the only player born in Honduras to reach the major leagues?

**ROY.** In 1993, when Mike Piazza was named Rookie of the Year, a Dodgers teammate received one vote. Who was this teammate, who went on to fame and fortune elsewhere, including Boston?
**Something missing.** New Hall of Famer Ken Griffey played the most games among Cooperstown residents (2,671) without getting into a World Series. What Hall of Famer is second to Griffey?

**Basher.** Who was the first shortstop to hit 40 home runs in a season?

**Senior basher.** Who hit the most home runs in 2015 among players over 35 years old?

**Triple threat.** Who is the only pitcher to win a World Series game in three different decades?

**Collegians.** Can you name the three members of the Baseball Hall of Fame who played at the University of Michigan?

**Update.** Since the last time we asked this question, the list has grown by one. There are now four players who have hit home runs in their teens and in their 40s. Who are they?

**High and low.** What home-run king won the National League homer crown one season with a batting average lower than that of the season’s NL Cy Young Award winner?

**Wild guesses needed.** When David Ortiz got a stolen base in April, he became the fourth Red Sox player to have a stolen base for the team in his 40s. The first three are all in the Hall of Fame. Any guess as to who they are?

**No crown.** What major leaguer had the most career hits without ever having led his league in batting?

**Blasts.** Which Hall of Famer has hit the most home runs against the Yankees?

**Switchers.** Who are the four switch-hitters in major-league history with at least 400 home runs?

**In the Hall.** Who is the only member of the Hall of Fame (so far) who has had Tommy John surgery?
Trivia answers

**Speedster.** Ichiro Suzuki, in the 2007 All-Star Game at AT&T Park in San Francisco.

**Blaster.** Adam Dunn.

**Runners-Up.** Herb Score (2.53 ERA), Early Wynn (2.72), and Bob Lemon (3.03).

**Wallops.** Warren Spahn (18 home runs in 253 plate appearances).

**Big numbers.** Former Red Sox pitcher John Lackey, who led the AL with a 3.01 ERA while pitching for the Angels in 2007.

**A toughie.** Gerald Young (Astros, Rockies, Cardinals 1987-94).

**ROY.** Pedro Martinez.

**Something missing.** Andre Dawson (2,627 games without a World Series appearance).

**Basher.** Ernie Banks, who hit 44 round-trippers in 1955. (From 1957 through 1960, his home-run totals were 43, 47, 45, and 41.)

**Senior basher.** Albert Pujols, who hit 40 HRs in 2015.

**Triple threat.** Jim Palmer, in 1966 (against the Dodgers), 1970 (Reds), 1971 and ’73 (Athletics), and 1983 (Phillies).

**Collegians.** George Sisler, Charlie Gehringer, and Barry Larkin.

**Update.** Ty Cobb, Rusty Staub, Gary Sheffield, and Alex Rodriguez (the latest).

**High and low.** Dave Kingman, who hit an NL-leading 37 homers for the Mets in 1982. Kingman batted .204. Steve Carlton, who won the National League Cy Young Award that season, batted .218.

**Wild guesses needed.** Rickey Henderson, Ted Williams, and Cy Young.

**No crown.** Eddie Collins (3,315 hits, but no batting title).

**Blasts.** Jimmie Foxx (70).
Switchers. Mickey Mantle (536 home runs), Eddie Murray (504), Chipper Jones (468), and Carlos Beltran (404 as of May 30).

In the Hall. John Smoltz.

R.I.P. Orlando Alvarez (Dodgers 1973-75, Angels ’76); Luis Arroyo (Cardinals 1955, Pirates ’56-57, ’59, Reds ’59, Yankees ’60-63); Dick Barone (Pirates 1960); Annastasia “Stash” Batikis (Racine Belles, AAGPBL, 1945); Jacqueline Baumgart (Springfield Sallies, AAGPBL, 1950, Kenosha Comets ’51); Margaret “Sonny” Berger (South Bend Blue Sox, AAGPBL, 1943-44); Fred Besana (Orioles 1956); John Braun (Milwaukee Braves 1964); Alton Brown (Senators 1951); Barbara Brown (Chicago Colleens, AAGPBL, 1949, Racine Belles ’50); Hector Harold “Skinny” Brown (White Sox 1951-52, Red Sox ’53-55, Orioles ’55-62, Yankees ’62, Colt 45s ’63-64); George Burpo (Reds 1946); Tom Butters (Pirates 1962-65); Carmelo Castillo (Indians 1982-88, Twins ’89-91); Kevin Collins (Mets 1965, ’67-69, Expos ’69, Tigers ’70-71); Jim Davenport (Giants 1958-70); Ramon de los Santos (Astros 1974); Carlos Diaz (Braves 1982, Mets ’82-83, Dodgers ’84-86); Kenny Dineen (Yankees 1975-76, Phillies ’78); Joe Durham (Orioles 1954-57, Cardinals ’59); Bob Dustal (Tigers 1963); Sammy Ellis (Reds 1962, ’64-67, Angels ’68, White Sox, ’69); Betty Francis (Chicago Colleens, AAGPBL, 1949, Muskegon Lassies ’49, Kalamazoo Lassies ’50-53, South Bend Blue Sox ’54); Joe Garagiola (Cardinals 1946-51, Pirates ’51-53, Cubs ’53-54, N.Y. Giants ’54); Gus Gil (Indians 1967, Seattle Pilots ’69, Brewers ’70-71); Lou Grasmick (Phillies 1948); Tommy Hanson (Braves 2009-12, Angels ’13); Jim Ray Hart (Giants 1963-73, Yankees ’73-74); Ruth (Kramer) Hartman (Fort Wayne Daisies, AAGPBL, 1946-47); Dave Henderson (Mariners 1981-86, Red Sox ’86-87, Giants ’87, Athletics ’88-93, Royals ’94); Evelio Hernandez (Washington Senators 1956-57); Jose Herrera (Astros 1967-68, Expos ’69-70); Montford Merrill (Monte) Irvin (N.Y. Giants 1949-55, Cubs ’56); Virgil Jester (Boston Braves 1952, Milwaukee Braves ’53); Ken Johnson (Kansas City Athletics 1958-61, Reds ’61, Colt 45s/Astros ’62-65, Twins ’65, Milwaukee/Atlanta Braves ’65-69,Yankees ’69, Cubs ’69, Expos ’70); Alan Koch (Tigers 1963-64, Washington Senators ’64); Steve Kraly (Yankees 1953); Marie Mahoney (South Bend Blue Sox, AAGPBL, 1947-48, Fort Wayne Daisies ’48); Bob Martyn (Kansas City A’s 1957-59); Clyde Mashore (Reds 1969, Expos ’70-73); Frank Malzone (Red Sox 1955-65, Angels ’56); Ed Mayer (Cubs 1957-58); Dick McAuliffe (Tigers 1960-73, Red Sox ’74-75); Walter McCoy (Negro Leaguer); Will McEnany (Reds 1974-76, Expos ’77, Pirates ’78, Cardinals ’79); Eddie Milner (Reds 1980-86, Giants ’87, Reds ’88); Jim O’Toole (Reds 1958-66, White Sox ’67); Milt Pappas (Orioles 1957-65, Reds ’66-68, Braves ’68-70, Cubs ’70-73); Brock Pemberton (Mets 1974-75); June Peppas (Fort Wayne Daisies, AAGPBL, 1948-49, Racine Belles ’49-50, Battle Creek Belles ’50, Kalamazoo Lassies ’51-54); Harry Perkowski (Reds 1947, ’49-54, Cubs ’55); Marjorie Peters (Rockford Peaches, AAGPBL, 1943-44); Tony Phillips Athletics 1982-89, Tigers ’90-94, Angels ’95, White Sox ’96-97, Angels ’97, Blue Jays ’98, Mets ’98, Athletics ’98); Alice Polliott (Rockford Peaches, AAGPBL, 1947-53); Ken Ramos (Astros 1977); Vern Rapp (manager Cardinals 1977-78, Reds ’84); Lance Rautzhan (Dodgers 1977-79, Brewers ’79); Fred Richards (Cubs 1951); Jay Ritchie (Red Sox 1964-65, Braves ’66-67, Reds ’68); Willie Royster (Orioles 1981); Mike Sandlock (Boston Braves 1942, ’44, Brooklyn Dodgers ’45-46, Pirates ’53); Bob Schmidt (Giants 1958-61, Reds ’61, Senators ’62-63, Yankees ’65); Rich Severson (Royals 1970-71); Alvin Spearman (Negro Leaguer); Bob Spicer (Kansas City A’s 1955-56); Ron Stillwell (Washington Senators 1961-62);
Lucille (Stone) Richards (Racine Belles, South Bend Blue Sox, AAGPBL, 1945); Jim Stump (Tigers 1957, ’59); Ed Sukla (Angels 1964-66); Frank Sullivan (Red Sox 1951-60, Phillies ’61-62, Twins ’62-63); Gordie Sundin (Orioles 1956); Ron Theobald (Brewers 1971-72); Joe Trawick (Cleveland Buckeyes, Negro Leagues); Price West (Negro Leaguer); Bill Whitby (Twins 1964); Walt “No Neck” Williams (Houston Colt .45s 1964, White Sox ’67-72, Indians ’73, Yankees ’74-75); John Young (Tigers 1971).

L’envoi. McCoy Stadium – and our chapter – got a reprieve, and we’ll be there on a day in June for a while yet. But as noted above, we do need to get your RSVP’s as soon as possible: no later than June 15. And as always, if you have any books to add to the raffle, please bring them along. See you there.

Len Levin
Southern New England SABR Regional Meeting

Saturday, June 25, 2015: 10:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Under a picnic tent at McCoy Stadium, Columbus Ave., Pawtucket, R.I.

Guest speakers: Dr. CHARLES STEINBERG, president of the Pawtucket Red Sox

   Pawsox Vice Chairman MIKE TAMBURRO, manager KEVIN BOLES, others

Research presentations, trivia quiz, baseball book raffle/sale

Lunch – hot dogs, potato chips, soft drink

The Pawtucket Red Sox play the Scranton Wilkes/Barre Rail Riders (Yankees farm team) at 6:05 p.m.

Getting to McCoy Stadium

From the north on Route 95 (Massachusetts): Take Exit 2A (signs say Route 1A South/Newport Ave./Pawtucket). From the exit go about 2 miles on Newport Avenue in Pawtucket to Columbus Avenue and take a right. Follow Columbus Avenue (crossing a set of train tracks) for one mile until you come to McCoy. The entrance to the picnic area is in the right-field fence; don’t park too close to the fence. There’s more than one tent, so if you don’t see anyone, look around. Ours is closest to the fence.

From Route 146 (Mass.): After crossing from Mass. into Rhode Island, take Route 295 north off Route 146, cross back into Massachusetts and then take Route 95 south; from there, follow directions above.

From the south: Best way to get to Pawtucket is on Route 95 north. In Pawtucket, take Exit 28 (School St.). At the end of the exit ramp, turn right onto School Street, go through two sets of traffic lights and turn left on Pond Street. You will pass Memorial Hospital on your right. McCoy Stadium is at the end of Pond Street.

From the east: Take Route 195 westbound to Route 95 northbound through Providence and into Pawtucket. Take Exit 28 and follow directions in “From the south,” above.

From northeastern Connecticut: Take Route 44 or Route 6 eastbound to Route 295 north in Greenville, R.I. (about 12 miles). On 295, cross into Massachusetts, then take Route 95 south and follow directions in “From the north,” above.

$7.00 donation to cover the cost of lunch. Children $3.00

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

If you plan to come, please return this part to:
Leonard Levin, 282 Doyle Avenue, Providence, R.I. 02906-3355
Or call 401-351-3278, or e-mail: LenLevin5@hotmail.com

Name:
Address:
If you wish to make a 10-minute presentation, write topic here and add phone number and/or e-mail address. (Because of time constraints, the number of presentations will be limited.)