

## ***Society of American Baseball Research***



### ***Emil Rothe Chapter - Chicago***

Chair, Rich Hansen  
Director, Richard Smiley  
Treasurer, Peter Yee  
Newsletter, David Malamut

Volume 2, Edition 4

September 2008

**NEXT MEETING: Saturday, October 11th, 2008**

**Room 206 of the University of Illinois-Chicago Student Center West Building (828 S Wolcott)**

Across the street from where the West Side Grounds sat

The meeting will commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the 1908 World Series and the 1908 season in general. That date chosen falls on the exact 100 Anniversary of Game Two of the 1908 World Series which was played at the West Side Grounds.

The meeting will go from 1-5 pm, Cindy Thomson, author of "Three Finger" The Mordecai Brown Story," and Jack Smiles, author of "Big Ed Walsh" The Life and Times of a Spitballing Hall of Famer," have agreed to speak at the meeting. In addition, Dave Anderson will prepare a special trivia quiz on the 1908 season and a member of the "Way Out In Left Field Society" will discuss their triumphant efforts to get a historical marker put up to honor the West Side Grounds. The meeting will finish with a walk over to the West Side Grounds site and the marker.

The Chicago Chapter newsletter is always looking for researched articles to publish, if you are interested please email David Malamut.

Also for an upcoming newsletter we need people who remember Emil Rothe to write about their experiences with him, and about him. We are looking for stories and biographies

Remember this newsletter is for you, We also will publish research needs, so if anyone is researching something and needs help please email David and it will be in an upcoming newsletter. The deadline for the November newsletter is November 15th, 2008

David Malamut david@malamut.net

Chicago Chapter Research Library and Exchange: <http://malamut.net/collection.html> If you have a research question that need to be answered remember to email it to David david@malamut.net and if someone in the chapter has a book that has the answer in it, we will get the answer for you. If you would like to participate in the program by helping others, please email David your list of what you have in your collection.

Library we are also taking donations to the library, whatever books are duplicates will be up in the exchange page at <http://malamut.net/collectiondrive.html>, if someone wants one of the books please email David, all we ask is you donate a book for each book you get. Whatever books are not picked up by December will be donated to the Chicago Public Schools.

**LAST MEETING:**

**AUGUST 8th, 2008**

**Standard Bank Stadium, Crestwood, Illinois**

At the last meeting we had 14 members attend, Chapter President Rich Hanson started things off with a few words, about what has been going on in SABR since the last time we meet. Talked about next years convention in Washington D.C., and about the Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference that was in Willowbrook, IL in July. David Malamut then talked about the research library for the Chicago Chapter, and about if the books are not claimed by Decemeber they will by donated to the Chicago Public Schools.

The first speaker of the afternoon was Dale and LuAnn Klein. They spoke about all of the baseball travels they have done. Especially about this one west coast trip they took a few years ago and saw many minor league parks. They also showed a short video on their travels.

John Kovavch then talked about women’s baseball, the past, present and future of the sport. He told us about the different leagues and tournaments that there are in women’s baseball. Plus were it is all headed in the future.

Our last speaker was Steve Tashler who is the general manager of the Windy City Thunderbolts, whose stadium suite we were using for the meeting. He told us about life in the Independent minor leagues. How it is being up against six or seven other teams in a 100 miles area.



Dale and LuAnn Klein



John Kovach



Steve Tashler

Standard Bank Stadium, Crestwood,



SABR 39 will be at the JW Marriott Hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington D.C., from

July 30 to August 2, 2009.

### **Chapter Websites:**

National Chapter Website <http://www.sabr.org/sabr.cfm?a=cms,c,1058,9,0>

Member Chapter Website <http://malamut.net/sabrchicago.html>

Jules Tygiel, 59, of San Francisco, California, passed away Tuesday night, July 1, after a battle with cancer.

A member of SABR since 1983, Tygiel's best-known baseball work was *Baseball's Great Experiment: Jackie Robinson and his Legacy*, which was named by *Sports Illustrated* as one of the Top 50 Sports Books of All Time in 2003. His book, *Past Time: Baseball as History*, received SABR's Seymour Medal for the best book of history published in 2000.

Fellow historian Richard Crepeau calls *Baseball's Great Experiment* "not simply a great piece of sport history, but a great piece of American historical scholarship. It is the one book in our field that I wish I could have written, and the one book that has been read by students, baseball fans, intellectuals, and people who care nothing about baseball or sport, with great interest and pleasure."

A member of the Lefty O'Doul Chapter of SABR, his contributions to the SABR-L (SABR's online discussion group) "stimulated controversy and discussion and provided another vehicle for teaching and learning."

Tygiel was a history professor at San Francisco State University since 1985 and co-taught (with Eric Solomon) a course on the History and Literature of Baseball. He served on the editorial boards of *Journal of Sport History* (1988-1996), *Nine: A Journal of Baseball History and Social Policy Perspectives* (1993-2008) and *Base Ball* (2006-2008).

He is survived by his wife, Luise, and sons, Charlie and Sam.

---

Vince Gennaro of Purchase, New York, and the team of David R. Zavagno, Avrami Grader, and Philip M. Halleck, took home the prizes for the best presentations at SABR 38, held June 26 to 29 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Gennaro won the Doug Pappas Research Award for the best oral research presentation at the SABR convention, for his "What Factors Influence Free Agent Salaries?" While the general public still views free agent salaries as a principal driver of the business, Gennaro argued that they are instead broadly explained by such factors as recent performance, contract length and fielding position.

Zavagno, et al, won the USA Today Sports Weekly Prize for the best poster presentation at SABR 38 for "Maple Bats Changed the Game." Although many ballplayers have switched from ash (the wood of choice of nearly every hitter for many decades) to maple since Barry Bonds started the trend, physical testing of the bat-ball interaction has not demonstrated meaningful differences. The X-ray CT techniques developed and presented by these authors, however, show real distinctions between ash and maple in the structures of growth rings. Does that explain what players insist is an advantage of maple?

As winner of the USA Today Sports Weekly Award, Zavagno wins a \$125 prize, with a matching donation to SABR from USA Today Sports Weekly.

The next SABR convention will be held July 30 to August 2, 2009, at the JW Marriott Hotel Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC.

Mark Armour, 47, of Corvallis, Oregon, was presented with the 2008 Bob Davids Award at the Annual SABR Awards Luncheon held this year in Cleveland, Ohio.

Armour is the founder and current chair of SABR's Baseball Biography Project, also known as BioProject, which strives to have article-length biographies of every major league baseball player as well as others who have had an impact on the game.

The Bob Davids Award honors SABR members whose contributions to SABR and baseball reflect the ingenuity, integrity, and self-sacrifice of the founder and past president of SABR, L. Robert "Bob" Davids. Voluntary activities in the area of administration and research are among those contributions considered. SABR's highest honor, the Bob Davids Award was established by the Board of Directors in 1985, and is awarded each year at the annual convention.

---

#### **RESEARCH NEEDS:**

Doing research I am looking for information regarding the starting time for the perfect game of October 2, 1908 (White Sox v. Cleveland) by Addie Joss. [djones@leaguepark.org](mailto:djones@leaguepark.org)

Doing research for a documentary about the Chicago Cubs and seeks rare and unusual film footage, photos, home movies and audio recordings from the period prior to 1950. Anyone with info please contact me at [robert@webelievethemovie.com](mailto:robert@webelievethemovie.com)

---

If you have a research need and want to see if anyone can help you, please email David Malamut [david@malamut.net](mailto:david@malamut.net) for help or for publication in the Chicago Chapter's next newsletter

Where Do You All Want To Have A Meeting Next Summer

Ballpark

Baseball Picnic/BBQ, with playing a SABR ball games at a park somewhere in Chicagoland

Any other ideas?

If so please email David Malamut [david@malamut.net](mailto:david@malamut.net)

# **Bluejackets of Summer**

## **The History of the Great Lakes Naval Baseball Team 1942-45**

By Roger Gogan

**Released on June 21, 2008**  
**Printed and ready to ship!**

“Over 500 major league and 4,000 minor league baseball players served in the Armed Forces during World War II. While some athletes served in combat, others entertained troops stateside with their specialized skills. At the Great Lakes Naval Training Station, baseball superstars Mickey Cochrane and Bob Feller led a highly talented group of Sailors—often referred to as the “17<sup>th</sup> Major League team”—to victories over numerous big league opponents, for four years from 1942 to 1945, the Great Lakes baseball team featured 68 major leaguers, 18 major league all-stars and five future Baseball Hall of Fame members.”

The Great Lakes Navy Baseball team, revered as one of the greatest organized teams of it's time, won 188 games and lost only 31 during World War II. The team routinely defeated major league, American Association minor league, Big Ten college teams and numerous semi-professional industrial teams.

Read stories about the:

- \* 1942 Servicemen All-Star team who challenged Joe DiMaggio, Ted Williams and the rest of the American League All-Star team,
- \* the Great Lakes basketball player who died in the sinking of the USS Indianapolis,
- \* the first all-Negro baseball team to represent the Navy,
- \* the Great Lakes' Athletic Department staff that included three Naval Officers who each went on to be inducted into three different professional sports hall of fames,
- \* Great Lakes' famous two-sport stars which included two college football hall of famers and a player who later founded the Chicago Bulls,
- \* the player who needed a 72-hour pass to see his former teammates play in the '45 World Series in Chicago,
- \* Great Lakes' intense three-sport rivalry with the University of Notre Dame, and many more.....

Written with the assistance of four surviving players (Ernie Andres, Eddie Carnett, Bob Feller and Virgil Trucks), the book contains 47 rare photos, game results, team rosters, player statistics and a game log of the '42 Servicemen All-Star game. The book measures 8.5 by 5.5 inches with 242 pages and a beautiful glossy softcover.

## Jerry Malloy Conference Report

by Leslie Heaphy

Approximately 70 researchers and fans gathered in Willowbrook, Illinois for the 11th Annual Jerry Malloy Conference from July 24-27. There were lots of opportunities for informal discussions, research presentations, a ball game, player panels and much more over the three days. Things kicked off on Friday morning with a series of presentations on topics including the Chicago History Society and their collections, the Chicago Baseball Museum, hearing about the Hall of Fame career of Buck Leonard and two different looks at the career of Oscar Charleston. Other research topics throughout the weekend included hearing about the Page Fence Giants, the Minneapolis Keystones, Western League Park, Alex Pompey, the 1945 World Series, salaries of players and barnstorming through mid-America.

In between the research presentations there were two player panels where the audience got to listen to and ask questions of former Negro Leaguers: Art Pennington, Sam Allen, Johnny Wilson, Louis Clarizio Jr (white player in the Negro Leagues), Walt Owens, Ernie Westfield, Al Spearman and Hank Presswood. These were a real highlight of the conference. Art Pennington also gave a special presentation about his own career and some of the things he encountered over the years. All who attended got the chance to honor and celebrate with him, especially after the devastating loss of his home in the Iowa floods. A special treat for all who attended was the chance to see and hear Dr. J. B. Martin IV talk about his great grandfather and his baseball days. He dressed the part and gave the audience some real insights into this important figure in the leagues.

Just so you do not think it was all work and no play the group attended a minor league game with the Schaumburg Flyers and Kansas City T-Bones. The Flyers wore the uniforms of the Chicago American Giants and the T-Bones wore the Monarchs uniforms. To start the game off all the players were honored and then Ernie Westfield showed that he could still get out there and pitch when he threw out the first pitch. For those who like stats and trivia there was a contest that came down to three experts showing off their knowledge and walking away with prizes: Dick Clark, Bob Bailey and Ted Knorr.

And if that was not enough you could take home some great items from either the vending room, the silent auction or the live auction that took place during the banquet. A few highlights included an Ernie Banks and Minnie Minoso autographed balls, Negro League jerseys, signed art work from artist Benjamin Blackburn and lots of autographed Negro League photos. There was something for everyone throughout the weekend.