

# Halsey Hall SABR Chapter Research Committee

## February 17, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Attendees (12): Art Mugalian, Dave Lande, Ed Edmonds, Bob Komoroski, Stew Thornley, Gene Gomes, Darryl Sannes, Daniel Dorff, John Buckeye, Terry Bohn, Dan Levitt, Brenda Himrich

Pre-meeting discussion and conversation: Discussion about cold-weather baseball in San Francisco at Candlestick Park and in Chicago at Wrigley Field.

The meeting started at 7:07 p.m.

### 1. SABR Day event

- a. Discussion regarding Zak Ford's presentation on his book entitled "Called Up: Ballplayers Remember Becoming Major Leaguers." Many positive comments on this presentation. Ed Edmonds recorded the presentation.
- b. Charlie Vascellaro was not available as a presenter on this SABR Day. He's extremely knowledgeable about Rickwood Field in Birmingham, AL and would be a future good choice.

### 2. Spring Chapter meeting on April 19

- c. These two presentations have previously been approved by the Research Committee.
  - i. Ben Ernst's talk about the minor league Aberdeen Pheasants of the Baltimore Orioles organization.
  - ii. Rich Arpi's talk about the "The Other 1908 Season", as covered by the Duluth newspapers."
- d. Mike Hauptert proposed via e-mail a presentation on "Babe Ruth's Anomalous 1929 Season" during which his base on balls plummeted. Terry Bohn made a motion to approve the presentation. Rich Arpi seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.
- e. Gene Gomes will reach out to Sam Sundermeyer and ask whether or not he wants to propose a presentation for the chapter meeting.
- f. The guest speaker is Dan Evans, former major league baseball front office executive.

### 3. SABR Five-chapter AL Central Division 2025 Season Preview

- g. This Zoom event is scheduled for Monday, March 24.
- h. John Bonnes of "Twins Daily" will give remarks about the 2025 Twins.
- i. The issue of some speakers talking way beyond their allotted time was discussed.

### 4. Other Items

- j. Rich Arpi and others continue their research project on Fridays at the MN History Center Library.
- k. Stew Thornley is posting notices on research projects being conducted by chapter members in the Holy Cow! Monthly newsletter.
- l. Ed Edmonds discussed changes to the chapter by-laws regarding how officers are elected. The board of directors plans to present the proposed by-law revisions at the spring chapter meeting.
- m. Gene Gomes will verify the MVP chapter requirements and any changes to these requirements.

## 5. Research Roundtable -Around the Horn

- n. Bob Komoroski talked about a Zoom meeting scheduled by the Ken Keltner chapter in Wisconsin. Kat Williams will talk about Maybelle Blair. This Zoom call is listed in the chapter newsletter and on the national SABR Web site.
- o. Stew Thornley talked about a presentation on baseball during the Civil War being presented at a meeting of the Civil War History group on March 18 at the old Knight of Columbus site on American Boulevard. Chapter members who wish to attend can send an e-mail to Darryl Sannes asking to attend as a guest.
- p. Ed Edmonds discussed the recently completed salary arbitration meetings. Of 17 pending cases, eight were resolved before going to arbitration. Teams won five of the nine case that went to arbitration.
- q. John Buckeye is reading "Baseball, the Movie" by Noah Gittell which he described as a fun book to read.
- r. Per Art Mugalian, the book club meets on April 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss "Locker Room Talk: A Woman's Struggle to Get Inside" by Melissa Ludtke.
- s. Ed Edmonds discuss "Attorneys in the Baseball Hall of Fame" to be published later this year by McFarland Publishing.
- t. Terry Bohn will give a talk about Dan Lally at the SABR 19<sup>th</sup> Century Committee meeting via Zoom on March 11. Terry recently completed a biography on John Michaelson, the only major league baseball player born in Finland. He'll also participate in a podcast on Michaelson in March with a Finish American group from Boston.
- u. Daniel Dorff completed a biography on 19<sup>th</sup> century player Sun Daly.
- v. Bob Komoroski talked about the 19<sup>th</sup> century book club and its Zoom meetings.
- w. Ed Edmonds recommended reading Glenn Renick's baseball card blog.
- x. Stew Thornley updated the status of the Pillbox plaque stat9oing that the revised proposal has been submitted. He also talked about Frank White who is to be honored later this year by the St. Paul Saints.
- y. Art Mugalian provided a 10-question quiz and answers about baseball players associated with the Chicago Cubs and White Sox.

## 6. Trivia Time Quiz courtesy of Darryl Sannes (Our Historic 40<sup>th</sup> Themed Chapter Trivia Quiz)

Challenge: How many can you get without looking anything up?

1. This pitcher was a three-sport star at Bucknell University. For a brief time, he played professional football, as well as baseball. He won 373 games in his career while never pitching on Sundays. An excellent all-around athlete he hit .215. In his first World Series he won all three games he pitched with shutouts. He wrote sports columns, a memoir, a play and a children's book. He is buried in Lewisburg, PA. Answer: **Christy Mathewson**
2. Ronald Reagan starred in a fictionalized movie of this baseball pitcher in 1952. He was named for the current U.S. President at the time of his birth. He also won 373 games in his career pitching for three different National League teams, finishing with the team he started with. In his post-major league

career, he was the player-coach and played with and against many negro league stars. Answer: **Grover Cleveland Alexander**

3. He stole home 54 times in his career and stole second, third and home in succession, four times. Although not a power hitter, he led the American League in home runs one year. A fiery player he was involved in several fights both on and off the field. His career batting average was .366. **Ty Cobb**
4. He played college baseball for the University of Michigan, managed by Branch Rickey. He was an excellent pitcher in college, pitched briefly in the majors but then played first base the remainder of his career. After sitting out with an eye problem, he started the next season with a 34-game hitting streak and following it up later in the season with a 22-game streak. His career batting average was .340.

Answer: **George Sisler**

5. He never played in the minor leagues and pitched his first major league game at the age of seventeen. His team won one World Series. He threw three no-hitters and twelve, one-hit games. He pitched his entire career with one team. In a 1946 game one of his pitches was clocked at 107.6 mph. He had multiple nicknames. Answer: **Bob Feller**
6. He played all of his major league seasons with one team, except the last year. He was the American League home run champ, four years and one of these years he hit 58. In his post-playing years, he was the team executive for the Cleveland Indians and the Chicago White Sox. He was the first Jewish superstar of an American team sport. He was one of very few players who publicly welcomed Jackie Robinson into the major leagues in 1947. Answer: **Hank Greenberg**
7. His given name was Lawrence Peter. He played nineteen seasons in MLB and was an All-Star, 18 times. He played on ten, World Series Championship teams. He managed MLB teams for seven years, winning 484 games. His three sons all played professional baseball, with two playing in the major leagues. He is known more today by his "expressions, lacking logic," than by his on-field accomplishments. Answer: **Yogi Berra**
8. He was named after President Theodore Roosevelt. He was so talented; he had multiple nicknames. He hit for power and for average, winning the triple crown two times, won the AL batting crown six times and was AL home run champ, four times. All of his nineteen year, MLB seasons were with the same team. He was named to the National Fishing Hall of Fame. Answer: **Ted Williams**
9. He won varsity letters in four sports at UCLA, with baseball probably his worst sport. He made his professional debut with the Kansas City Monarchs. At the age of 28, he was Rookie of the Year in his first MLB season and was the NL, MVP two years later. In his ten-year MLB career, his team played in six World Series Championships, winning it in 1955. Answer: **Jackie Robinson**
10. As a pitcher he won over 300 games, had over 3000 strikeouts and had a career ERA of under 3.00. He once struck out ten consecutive hitters. He was a 12-time All Star and 3-time NL Cy Young award winner. His #41 was retired by the New York Mets. His last win was against the Minnesota Twins. Answer: **Tom Seaver**

**The theme:** They're all in the Baseball Hall of Fame and they all served in the military.

7. Next Meetings: March 17 and April 21. Sparky Seals is the next Quizzer.

8. Meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.