

Halsey Hall Research Committee Meeting Minutes May 26, 2025

Attendees (11): Ed Edmonds, Stew Thornley, Art Mugalian, John Buckeye, Rich Arpi, Bob Komoroski, Terry Bohn, Mike Hauptert, Dan Levitt, Darryl Sannes, Gene Gomes

Pre-meeting discussion items: The SEC has plenty teams in the NCAA bracket (13), and the ACC has nine. Bob said Brooks Lee's dad coaches Cal Poly. Ed talked about the reserve clause and the Koufax-Drysdale holdout in which they used an agent to negotiate.

1. Thanks to Rich Arpi, John Buckeye, Howard Luloff and Jacob Sayward for being elected to our chapter's board.
2. Thanks to Bob Tholkes and Rich Arpi for their time as judges for the MN History Day competition. Awards were given on April 27. We hope that the two co-authors who won with their submission about Toni Stone can attend the Fall Chapter Meeting.
3. Recap: Our collaboration with the Ken Keltner Chapter on May 14 featuring Charlie Vascellaro was very enjoyable. Thanks to Bob Komoroski who set it up, and Ed for hosting.
4. Stew sent out emails about an article written in the Star Tribune on May 21 by Josie Albertson-Grove on the proposed Pillbox ballpark plaque project application.
5. Recap of the May 21st SABR Webinar on "Pete Rose, Shoeless Joe and the Hall". Several of us participated and thought it was well done. Some thought Rose may eventually get in, but maybe not Joe Jackson. Author Keith O'Brien of "Charlie Hustle" felt Rose had done too much harm to MLB by gambling to gain entry into the HOF, and also explained the decent chance he had of getting in. ESPN reporter Don Van Natta, Jr. explained that Manfred's re-instatement of Rose was already in the works in January, before President Trump voiced support for Rose in April. But Jay Jaffee of FanGraphs criticized Trump for getting involved. Jaffee thinks Rose will get in. Van Natta thinks he'll get in because of the economic impact for Cooperstown it'll provide.
6. Upcoming: chapter board Zoom meeting tomorrow.
7. Upcoming: Book Club on June 14 is "The Last Manager: How Earl Weaver Tricked, Tormented, and Reinvented Baseball" by John W. Miller.
8. Chapter Fall Meeting date was suggested as October 25.
9. Research Roundtable: Bob suggested a Zoom event with Marshall Patrick Garvey and his book on the 1991 Series "Interstate 85". Mike Hauptert is preparing his SABR 53 talk on Babe Ruth's 1929 season. Rich is researching 1907 baseball, finding a game between Notre Dame and St. Thomas at the Pillbox ballpark. Rich wants more of us to do research, and John Buckeye said he could come to the MN History Museum Library. The St. Paul Globe of the 1880s- 1905 is accessible online. Ed wrote a chapter on MacPhail for the "Attorneys in the HOF" book.

Trivia Time Quiz, Courtesy of Ed Edmonds Theme: Popes on Deck

1. This two-time All-Star backstop spent 12 years with the Atlanta Braves catching starters Phil Niekro, Pascual Pérez, and Rick Mahler amongst others on the Braves staff. He was also on the team for the early years of Tom Glavine and John Smoltz, but the real Atlanta star was Dale Murphy. In 982 games, he managed to hit only 18 home runs. Who was this lifetime .242 hitter?
Bruce Benedict

2. This hurler spent 19 years in the majors and ended his career with a 186-191 win-loss record. A star for Guilford College, he is best remembered for giving up a legendary home run while pitching for the Washington Senators. He pitched for six other MLB teams in his career – Boston Braves, Brooklyn Dodgers, New York Yankees, St. Louis Browns, and both Philadelphia teams.

Tom **Zachary**

3. This pitcher won a total of 187 games in his MLB career with only 117 losses. He posted a 27-12 W-L record in 1921 for the St. Louis Browns, the second of four consecutive 20-win seasons for the Browns. He later played on the same team as the home run hitter mentioned in question 2. He suffered from a heart ailment that combined with pneumonia resulted in his death on September 9, 1928. **Urban** Shocker

4. Nicknamed “El Coffee,” this right fielder hit 96 career home runs during his eight seasons (2014-2021) with the Pittsburgh Pirates. He stole two more bases than home runs during his time in the majors. He headed to Japan in 2022 to play for the Yomiuri Giants before moving to the Chiba Lotte Marines the following season. He is playing in his third season for the Marines.

Gregory Polanco

5. This Hall-of-Fame pitcher won 373 MLB games from 1911-1930. He had three consecutive seasons of 30 or more wins. While serving as a sergeant during World War I, he suffered from exposure to mustard gas while a shell that exploded near him caused partial hearing loss. The injury also set off epileptic seizures. He was named for a president, but it is his last name that scores with the theme of this quiz. Grover Cleveland **Alexander**

6. This pitcher fell just 12 wins short of the magical number 300. He started exactly 700 games for a total of six teams. He won six post-season games for the Dodgers, Yankees, and Angels, but this native of Terre Haute, Indiana, is best known for something that happened to him off the field.

Tommy **John**

7. This second baseman spent 12 MLB seasons playing for the Braves and Mets. He was a three-time All-Star (1969-1971) and won two Gold Gloves. He struck out only 242 times in 6,325 plate appearances. In his home country of Puerto Rico was, he was nicknamed “El Gatito.” If you can translate that, it might help you identify this middle infielder. **Felix** Millan

8. This shortstop and third baseman for the Reds, Twins, Angels, Indians and Rangers was commonly known by his nickname Chico. Born in Matanzas, Cuba, he played in 1,941 MLB games during his 16-year MLB career with a B-Ref WAR of 27.2. Name this infielder who hit 11 triples and 11 home runs in 1965 for Cincinnati. **Leo** Cardenas

9. This outfielder played in the Negro Leagues and the Quebec Provincial Leagues before Hank Greenberg signed him for the Cleveland Indians and sent him to Wilkes-Barre and Indianapolis before promoting him to the big club for a few games in 1952. In Game 1 of the 1954 World Series, he jumped high to try and catch Dusty Rhodes 10th inning home run blast that landed in the first

row to win the game for the Giants. The game is best known for another outfielder who made “the Catch” for the Giants. If you have not figured out the theme yet, figuring out the last name of this player should help. Dave **Pope**

10. The last name of the manager who won the most major league games ever should be easy. However, his first two names are needed for a direct hit on the theme of this quiz.

Cornelius Alexander McGillicuddy

Bonus - Provide the full name of this 1939 Hall of Fame inductee born in Marshalltown, Iowa, who racked up a total of 3,435 hits in his MLB career spanning 1871-1897. As with question 10, his nickname and last name might be easy, but as with question 10, you need his given first and middle names to answer this question that supports the theme of this quiz.

Adrian Constantine Anson

Discussion of several Popes of history ensued: the first Pope was not St. Peter, since the word “pope” wasn’t used until later. The first Pope to call himself “Pope” was Siricius, 384 A.D., Gene noted.

The present Pope is Leo XIV, formerly Cardinal Robert Prevost, a White Sox fan!

3. Next Committee meetings: June 16 (Quizzer: Dave Lande) and July 21.
4. Meeting adjourned at: 8:32 pm