



Society for American Baseball Research

San Diego Ted Williams Chapter

e-NEWS

January 8, 2008

Issue No. 36

CONTENTS

- Program for Saturday, January 26, 2008 Regional Meeting: Matt Dahlgren, Paul DePodesta, Tammy Lechner...and more!
Prepare for the trivia quiz: warm-ups are on page 3!
- Padres 2008 FriarFest at PETCO Park on January 26-27, 2008
- Boston Red Sox BioProject—Biographers Needed

**** PROGRAM ****

REGIONAL MEETING

Saturday, January 26th, 9:30 a.m.

PETCO Park

Date: Saturday, January 26th
Time: Program starts at 9:30 a.m. (we plan to conclude by 1:00 p.m.)
Venue: PETCO Park Community Room (*the Community Room is next to the office entrance on Park Boulevard, just north of the intersection with Imperial Avenue*)

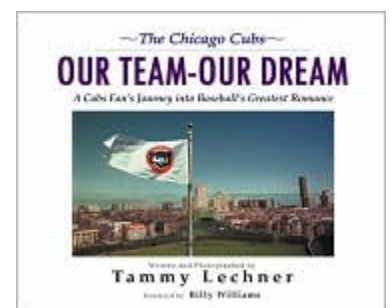
To start off the New Year we have put together an outstanding program for our Winter Regional Meeting. It will be a good way to satisfy your off-season appetite for baseball! PLUS...combine our meeting in the morning with the Padres FriarFest which goes until 3:00 p.m. that afternoon. All activities are at PETCO Park.

Starting off our meeting will be **Paul DePodesta**, Special Assistant for Baseball Operations for the Padres. Before joining the Padres he was General Manager for the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2004-05. Paul came to the Dodgers from the Oakland Athletics where he served as an assistant to General Manager Billy Beane from 1999 to 2003. He was characterized as having a bent for statistical analysis in the book **Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game** (by Michael Lewis, 2003).

*“Paul wanted to look at stats because the stats offered him new ways of understanding amateur players. He had graduated from college with distinction in economics, but his interest, discouraged by the Harvard economics department, had been on the uneasy border between psychology and economics. He was fascinated by irrationality, and the opportunities it created in human affairs for anyone who resisted it. He was just the sort of person who might have made an easy fortune in finance, but the market for baseball players, in Paul’s view, was far more interesting than anything Wall Street offered. There was, for starters, the tendency of everyone who actually played the game to generalize wildly from his own experience. People always thought their own experience was typical when it wasn’t. There was also a tendency to be overly influenced by a guy’s most recent performance: what he did last was not necessarily what he would do next. Thirdly—but not lastly—there was the bias toward what people saw with their own eyes, or thought they had seen. The human mind played tricks on itself when it relied exclusively on what it saw, and every trick it played was a financial opportunity for someone who saw through the illusion to the reality. There was a lot you couldn’t see when you watched a baseball game.” (p.18, Lewis, **Moneyball**)*

Paul’s initial stint in baseball was with the Cleveland Indians beginning in 1996 partly serving as an advance scout. He is a graduate of Harvard University with a degree in Economics, where he also played baseball and football. Get your questions answered about our Padres and our minor league system!

Next up we have **Tammy Lechner**, photojournalist/author, who recently completed a book entitled **Our Team-Our Dream: A Cubs Fan's Journey Into Baseball's Greatest Romance**. This book is a passionate photo documentary highlighting 15 seasons with the Chicago Cubs—capturing the very heart and soul of the most devoted fans in the world and answering the question, *Why do the Cubs remain so popular decade after decade?* More than 300 one-of-a-kind photographs depict the Cubs fans' optimism, while a heartening narrative waxes romantic as it explores the reasons why Cubs fans love their team and hold onto their dream of a World Series title even if it takes forever. Tammy covered professional sports during her years on staff with the [Louisville] *Courier-Journal* and the *Los Angeles Times*. She also covered major league baseball for the Associated Press and *USA Today Baseball Weekly*. A native of New York, she is a lifelong Chicago Cubs fan who resides in Laguna Beach. For more information about the book go to <http://www.stillpro.com/>.



A member of the L.A. Roth SABR Chapter, **Matt Dahlgren** will also be on our program. He is the author of a new book called **Rumor In Town**. It’s a captivating look at Babe Dahlgren’s life—Matt’s grandfather—from tragedy and poor beginnings in San Francisco where, by the age

of 6, he set his sights on a dream. It is a look at his days in the Pacific Coast League striving to get to the other side of the country to that dream—the Big Leagues. There are stories about Hall of Fame players and managers; and the historic day Babe replaced his boyhood idol, Lou Gehrig



(photo on left shows Dahlgren in 1935 with Lou Gehrig). But it's more than that. It is about the failures of Kenesaw Mountain Landis and Albert "Happy" Chandler to punish the likes of Joe McCarthy and Branch Rickey for spreading a rumor throughout baseball while Babe played under a cloud of suspicion. Matt grew up in Irvine where he played high school and college baseball and eventually signed with the West Virginia Coal Sox of the Frontier League in 1993. But after only one month, the Coal Sox went bankrupt and Matt returned to Southern California where he continued his love for the game by coaching young high school and college players

for several years before entering the business world of sales and marketing. You can get more information on the book by visiting www.rumorintown.com.

Adding a research slant to the program, *Tom Larwin*, *Jay Walker* and *Steve Wheeler* will give members a close-up of the microfilm files we acquired from the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 2006 for our San Diego SABR Baseball Research Center.



And, to wrap things up, we will include a trivia contest courtesy of *Greg Funk*.

To get you warmed up prior to our meeting, here are two sample trivia questions posed by Greg:

Q1--Seven members of the 2004 Cubs have also been Padres. Four are on the current roster (including one that is a free agent signed to a minor league contract). Name them.

Q2--Who was most recent Cub to win the MVP award?

For the correct answers see the last page of **e-News**.

We plan to end the program before 1:00 p.m. so there will be ample time to attend the FriarFest if you want to add to your baseball day.

Padres 2008 FriarFest

On the same Saturday of our regional meeting the Padres will hold their 2008 FriarFest at PETCO Park. It will also run on Sunday, January 27th. The festivities will begin at 10:30 a.m. and go until 3 p.m. each day. Activities include:

- Autographs with Padres' players, coaches and alumni (each player signing session will be limited)
- Question and Answer sessions with Padres players, coaches and front office executives
- Opportunity to go on the playing field and receive sneak peaks at behind the scenes areas of PETCO Park, including the Home Clubhouse
- Interactive displays and booths

Tickets are just \$5 and children 5 and younger are free! For tickets and additional information go to: <http://sandiego.padres.mlb.com/sd/>.

Boston Red Sox 1950s BioProject—Biographers Needed

We received the message below from **Bill Nowlin** about a BioProject that the Boston Chapter is working on. Contributors from other SABR chapters are welcome to participate. Just let Bill know which player(s) you would like to take. For more information about SABR's BioProject see this web site: www.bioproj.sabr.org/.

“These Red Sox players (listed below) from the 1950s are all of interest. Needless to say, several of them also played for other teams and - being BioProject - we are looking for their FULL life stories, without any real emphasis on their time with Boston per se. Four of the players are still living, and someone who enjoys doing oral histories could doubly benefit SABR by taking on one of them.

Thanks, Bill Nowlin bnowlin@rounder.com

Frank Baumann - still living

Tom Brewer

Pete Daley

Ike Delock - still living

Hoot Evers

Gary Geiger

Grady Hatton - still living

Bill Henry - still living

Leo Kiely

Bob Porterfield

Dave Sisler

Haywood Sullivan

Faye Throneberry

Ted Wills

Al Zarilla

Norm Zauchin”

Answers to trivia questions from page 3

A1--Greg Maddux, Mark Prior, Glendon Rusch, Michael Barrett, Derrek Lee, Todd Walker, Matt Clement.

A2--Sammy Sosa (1998).