



Society for American Baseball Research

San Diego Ted Williams Chapter

e-News

January 12, 2009

Issue No. 40

CONTENTS

- Program for January 24, 2009 Regional Meeting... **9:15 A.M. START**
- A Few Trivia Questions
- Web Site News
- Our Picks for the Best New Books

Winter Regional Meeting Coming Up on Saturday, January 24, 2009

- Date: Saturday, January 24, 2009
Time: **9:15 a.m. Note the earlier start time**
Location: Petco Park Multi-Purpose Room/Community Room (*this room is next to the office entrance on Park Boulevard, north of the intersection with Imperial Avenue*)
Program: Merv Rettenmund, former San Diego Padres hitting coach
Warren Miller, Director of Media Relations, San Diego Padres
Research Presentations
Raffle and Trivia Quiz



Former major league ball player and Padres hitting coach Merv Rettenmund will start off our program. A Ball State University grad Merv played for the Padres in 1976-77 and was their hitting coach between 1991 and 1999, and again in 2006-07. In all, he has coached at the big league level for five teams over 19 years. As a player he was almost exclusively an outfielder playing in over 1,000 games with the Orioles, Reds, Padres, and Angels between 1968 and 1980. Merv played in four World Series (three with Baltimore and one with Cincinnati) and had two home runs in his 35 total at bats. He is a San Diego resident and currently offers group and individual instruction to professional players and little leaguers—and anyone in between—as Merv

“The Hit Man” (for more information on his instruction services go to <http://www.probaseballcoach.com/index.htm>).

Next up in our line-up will be Warren Miller, Director of Media Relations for our Padres. Before joining the Padres Miller was with the Seattle Mariners and Houston Astros for nine years in a similar capacity. Prior to his major league baseball experience he worked in media relations and sports information for Texas Tech University, the University of Arkansas, Duke University and West Georgia College. He has been a busy man this off-season, with little let-up in sight!

Try Your Luck with a Few Trivia Questions

Greg Funk has been busy getting trivia questions ready for our regional meeting. To whet your appetite here are a few questions to keep you sharp:

Merv Rettenmund played for 4 teams. Name them.

Hint: he was a teammate of the 1973 AL Cy Young winner, 1975 NL MVP, 1976 NL Cy Young winner, and 1979 AL MVP.

Also, who were the award winners?

For the answers go to page 3.

Chapter Web Site...Full of Baseball Research Information

Our Chapter’s webmaster, **Bob Hicks**, has been busy maintaining our web site and keeping it up-to-date. You can check it out by going to <http://sandiego.sabr.org/>. If you go to the “About Us” page and you will find a summary of Chapter programs and projects from the past 10+ years. For example, here you will find e-links to various reports like these:

- *Most Influential in San Diego Baseball During the 1900s*—this report was published in 2001 and listed the 26 most influential individuals in San Diego baseball history during the past century, 1900-1999.
- *Major League Players Living in the San Diego Region*—this is a list, in Excel format, of MLB players (and managers, coaches, and umpires, too), past and current, who are living in the San Diego region—a total of 178 (current through the start of the 2007 season). The table has information on their first year and last year in the big leagues, how many MLB games they played, and their zip code and community of residence.
- *San Diego SABR Baseball Research Center (BRC) Help Guide*—this user guide has been prepared to assist researchers using our BRC located in San Diego’s downtown library.
- *Chat with Buzzie Bavasi*—you will find a report prepared for our discussion and interview with Buzzie which we held at one of our regional meetings in 2001.
- “A Look at the Creation of Modern Baseball, The Formation and Contributions of the Negro Leagues” (Martha Aquilar, 2002); “If You Build It, Will They Come?” (Nathan

Hicks, 2003); and “Ted Williams, The Last .400 Hitter...Ever?” (Nathan Hicks, 2004)—these three papers were authored by high school students who won our Chapter’s Boynton Baseball Research Award.

In the same section (“About Us”) there is a list of all the 27 players who make up the roster of the PCL Padres Hall of Fame. And, did you know about the “San Diego Padres (NL) Box Score Scrapbook” project? This is a file of the box score from every game played by the NL Padres that was initiated by former PCL Padres player and NL Padres coach Whitey Wietelmann in 1969 through 1993. We have continued to update the scrapbook after that date through the present.

If you have any questions about the site, or suggestions on things to add, feel free to contact **Bob** at bobfromramona@cox.net.

New Reading—Our Picks for the Best New Books

Each year our Chapter’s Steering Committee helps our liaison with the San Diego Public Library, **Steve Wheeler**, with the acquisition of new baseball books for the San Diego SABR Baseball Research Center. This year we started with a list of 134 selections. Below are the top 25 books that we recommended to the Library for its 2009 acquisition program.

Carroll, Jeff, *Sam Rice: A Biography of the Washington Senators Hall of Famer*

Center, Bill, *Game of My Life: San Diego Padres: Memorable Stories of Padres Baseball*

Cook, William A., *August Garry Herrmann: A Baseball Biography*

Dewey, Don, *The Black Prince of Baseball: Hal Chase and the Mythology of the Game*

Goldman, Robert Michael, *One Man Out: Curt Flood Versus Baseball*

Hubbard, Donald, *The Heavenly Twins of Boston Baseball: A Dual Biography of Hugh Duffy and Tommy McCarthy*

Huhn, Rick, *Eddie Collins: A Baseball Biography*

Levitt, Daniel R., *Ed Barrow: The Bulldog Who Built the Yankees’ First Dynasty*

Lynch, Michael T., Jr., *Harry Frazee, Ban Johnson and the Feud That Nearly Destroyed the American League*

Matthews, George R., *When the Cubs Won It All: The 1908 Championship Season*

Nerad, Jack R., *The History of Baseball Equipment: More Than a Century of Balls, Bats, Gloves, and Gear*

Neyer, Rob, *Rob Neyer’s Big Book of Baseball Legends: The Truth, the Lies, and Everything Else*

Schiff, Andrew J., *The Father of Baseball: A Biography of Henry Chadwick*

Schraufnagel, Noel, *The Baseball Novel: A History and Annotated Bibliography of Adult Fiction*

Selter, Ronald M., *Ballparks of the Deadball Era: A Comprehensive Study of Their Dimensions, Configurations and Effects on Batting, 1901-1919*

Shiffert, John, *Base Ball in Philadelphia: A History of the Early Game, 1831-1900*

Skipper, John C., *Charlie Gehringer: A Biography of the Hall of Fame Tigers Second Baseman*

Skipper, John C., *Dazzy Vance: A Biography of the Brooklyn Dodger Hall of Famer*

Smiles, Jack, *Big Ed Walsh: The Life and Times of a Spitballing Hall of Famer*

Soos, Troy, *Before the Curse: The Glory Days of New England Baseball, 1858-1918 N (Revised)*

Swaine, Rick, *The Integration of Major League Baseball: A Team by Team History*

Tango, Tom, *The Book: Playing the Percentages in Baseball*
Virtue, John, *South of the Color Barrier: How Jorge Pasquel and the Mexican League Pushed Baseball Toward Racial Integration*

Walker, James R., *Center Field Shot: A History of Baseball on Television*

Wiggins, Robert Peyton, *The Federal League of Base Ball Clubs: The History of an Outlaw Major League, 1914-1915*

Answers to Trivia Questions (from page 2)

Baltimore (Jim Palmer); Cincinnati (Joe Morgan); Padres (Randy Jones); California (Don Baylor)