

## San Diego Public Library

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **San Diego SABR's Inaugural Card Features Hall of Famer Ozzie Smith and the San Diego SABR Baseball Research Center**

**San Diego, CA...**The San Diego Ted Williams Society for American Baseball Research (SABR) Chapter is unveiling their inaugural baseball card, featuring legendary shortstop Ozzie Smith and the San Diego SABR Baseball Research Center. A news conference will take place on Thursday, June 20, at 11:30 a.m. in the Wangenheim Room of the San Diego Public Library, 820 E St., home of the Baseball Research Center. The high-quality glossy card, printed by The Upper Deck Company of Carlsbad, features a full-length color portrait of Smith and a narrative about Smith and the Baseball Research Center. Smith will be joined by representatives from San Diego SABR and the Library.

Smith was recently elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and will be inducted in July. From 1977 to 1981 he played shortstop for the San Diego Padres, and from 1982 to his retirement in 1996, with the St. Louis Cardinals.

San Diego SABR and the San Diego Public Library entered into a partnership in 2000, creating the San Diego SABR Baseball Research Center. Jointly they plan to build one of the most comprehensive baseball research centers in the world. Since 2000, the partnership has funded significant additions to the Center, including generous donations from individuals through SABR.

**Tom Larwin**, San Diego SABR President, says "We are very pleased that Ozzie Smith – a Hall of Famer – agreed to be the featured player on our inaugural baseball card, and thank The Upper Deck Company for their generous participation, too. This card highlights our Baseball Research Center, which is a resource that will provide present and future San Diegans with the opportunity to read about and research many different aspects of baseball."

**Ozzie Smith** says, "From Escondido's Gavvy Cravath and Hoover High's Ted Williams, to Tony Gwynn, San Diego has produced and contributed significantly to baseball. This Baseball Research Center is a magnificent idea as a way to provide access to those who are interested in baseball resources that previously were not available to the public in this part of the country."

"We will be distributing the Ozzie Smith card throughout the San Diego Public Library system as part of our summer campaign, 'Join the Major Leagues @ your library™,'" says **Anna Tatár**, Library Director of the San Diego Public Library. "The American Library Association and Major League Baseball designed this program, which helps people build information literacy skills by having them use print and online resources to answer contest questions about baseball. The Baseball Research Center will be of great benefit to contestants in the San Diego area."

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