## /B

# Bleacher Creature 



## Zephyrs Home Schedule

July 4 - Nashville
July 5 - Nashville
July 6 - Nashville
July 7 - Nashville
July 8 - lowa
July 9 - lowa
July 10 - Iowa
July 18 - Oklahoma
July 19 - Oklahoma
July 20 - Oklahoma
July 21 - Oklahoma
July 22 - Albuquerque
July 23 - Albuquerque
July 24 - Albuquerque
July 25 - Albuquerque
August 4 - Tacoma
August 5 - Tacoma
August 6 - Tacoma
August 7 - Tacoma

## Zephyrs Help Keep Nationals Winning

The New Orleans Zephyrs finished June with a record of $15-14$, despite a constantly changing roster. Their parent club, the Washington Nationals, took charge in the NL East, rising to the top of the division. As Major League Baseball headed for its midseason All Star break, Frank Robinson's club held a $4-1 / 2$ game lead



Godwin
 over Atlanta, and led by 8 games over third-place Florida. Because of injuries to several front-line players, Washington tapped the Triple-A roster of the Zephyrs early and often.

Pitchers Sunny Kim and Hector Carrasco, who started the season with New Orleans, were
pitching well at the major league level at mid-season.

Zephyrs position players Tyrell Godwin, Rick Short, Hector Ortiz and Matt Cepicky, among others, have taken up the slack when injuries on the major league roster made it necessary. As the PCL reached its break, Godwin and Short were very deserving members of the PCL team at the Triple-A All Star game in Sacramento. (See story at bottom of page 3.)

Manager Tim Foli's Zephyrs continued to have more success on the road than they did at Metairie's Zephyr Field. After the July 4 holiday, the Zs were 22-22 in road games, but were only 16-24 at home.

Outfielder Brandon Watson esatablished a club record for the Zephyrs when he reached base in his first 41 consecutive games with the club. The fleet-footed Watson, in his first season at Triple-A, has been an effective leadoff hitter for Foli. He had struck out only 19 times in 203 at-bats.

Short has hit in the .370 s for most of the season, and the Nationals gave him his first taste of major league ball, where he was able to get his first big league hit in his first atbat for Washington.

Godwin has eased into the 3-hole in Foli's batting order, and was playing like an All Star offensively and defensively.

An All Star Team of Former N.O. Zephyrs


Abreu


Matheny


Ward


Ensberg

C. Guillen


Hidalgo

By Bill Catalanello
We have fun every summer picking our major league All Star team of former Zephyrs players. We avoid players who had only a "cup of coffee" or injury rehab in New Orleans, and pick those who put in some meaningful time with the Zs. Here are some quick thoughts about a few of our picks:

- Bobby Abreu is building such solid career numbers that his name is beginning to show up on lists of potential future Hall of Famers.
- Mike Matheny has established himself as one of the great catchers in the major leagues, and this year at age 34, Mike is in his first season with the Giants.
- Daryle Ward was the Pirates' regular first baseman for the first half of the season. As a Zephyr in

1998, Ward was one of the heroes of the Zephyrs' championship season. In 1999, he hit 28 home runs for New Orleans in just 241 at-bats as a Zephyr.

- Lance Berkman started the season on the DL, and when he finally was pronounced ready to play, he found himself playing first base in the absence of Jeff Bagwell. In several years, Berkman was an almost automatic choice for one of the outfield positions, but we want him on our team for his switchhitting power.
- We picked Jason Lane, who is in his first season in a major league lineup. His average is down, but Jason is producing runs for Houston, ashehasdone throughout his professional career.
- Another first-time selection is Brandon Backe, one of the Astros;


Our Former Zs All Stars Pos. - Player Club 3B - Morgan Ensberg Hou.
3B - Melvin Mora Bal.
SS - Carlos Guillen Det.
SS - Adam Everett
Hou.
2B - Mark Loretta S.D.
1B - Daryle Ward
OF - Bobby Abreu
OF - Jason Lane Phil

OF - Richard Hidalgo Tex.
C - Mike Matheny S.F.
P - Brandon Backe Hou.
P - Roy Oswalt
P - Hector Carrasco
Hou.
Wash.
pitching heroes of 2004, who won six games for the Zephyrs before going up to join Houston's rotation.

- Hector Carrasco was the New Orleans closer early this season before going up to bolster the Nationals' bullpen.


## Bleachire Creatre

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Ted Williams holds All Star Game RBI records for both a single game (5) and a career (12).

## Godwin, Short Named to Triple-A All Star Game July 13 in Sacramento

The Triple-A All Star Game will be played on Wednesday, July 13, at Raley Field in Sacramento, home of the Sacramento River Cats of the Pacific Coast League.
The PCL All Stars will be opposed by the All Stars from the International League. The game will be televised on ESPN2. The radio broadcast will be carried by on WTIX-690 AM.
The Zephyrs placed two on the PCLAll Star team, outfielder Tyrell Godwin and infielder Rick Short were chosen. Both have joined the Washington Nationals roster briefly this season. It is the first Triple-A All Star honor for either player. Godwin was batting . 326 in early July, with 5 homers and 16 stolen bases. Short was hitting .381 with 8 home runs and 43 RBIs for the Zephyrs.

## All Star Game Facts and Figures

This year's All Star game, played in Detroit, is baseball's 76th. The record after 75 AllStar games stood at 40 games won by the National League, 33 games won by the American League and two games have ended in a tie.

Here are some All Star game facts: - Only eleven players were used by the AL in the 1942 game. Manager Joe McCarthy used the eight starters, two pitchers and one pinch-hitter in the 3-1 AL win.

- The first night All Star game was played at Shibe Park in Philadelphia in 1943.
- In the 1990 All Star game the NL All Stars were held to two hits.
- Ted Williams had the best day at bat in an All Star game in 1946, when he hit two home runs and two singles and drew a base on balls. His 10 total bases and 5 RBIs established single-game records for All Star competition.
- Jim Palmer set an All Star game record when he surrendered three home runs in the 1977 game.
- Rod Carew became the only player to hit two triples in one All Star game in 1978.
- Fred Lynn hit the only All Star game grand slam for the AL off Atlee Hammaker in 1983.
- The largest attendance for an All Star game was at Cleveland, where 72,086 watched the 1981 game.
- For four consecutive years (1959 through 1962), two All Star games were played each summer.
- A total of 161 home runs have been hit in All Star game competition, an average of 2.1


## The only All Star grand slam was hit by Fred Lynn in Chicago in 1983

homers per contest.

- Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig (1934) and Jim Rice (1983) had two plate appearances in one inning.
- The youngest player to appear in an All Star game was Dwight Gooden, who was 19 years, 7 months and 24 days old when he pitched for the NL in the 1984 game.
- The oldest player to appear in an All Star game was Satchel Paige, who pitched for the AL in the 1953 game. Paige was 47 years and 7 days old.
- Stan Musial, Willie Mays and Hank Aaron share the record for most All Star games played in a career with 24.
- Gary Sheffield holds an All Star record, having represented five different teams at All Star games.
- Pete Rose played five different positions in All Star games (2B, LF, RF, 3B, 1B).
- Here is a list of the most games played at each position in All Star competition:
1B-Steve Garvey ..... 10
2B-Nellie Fox ..... 13
3B-Brooks Robinson ..... 18
SS-Cal Ripken, Jr. ..... 15
OF-Willie Mays ..... 22
C-Yogi Berra ..... 14
P-Roger Clemens ..... 9



# How 'Bout Those Washington Nationals? 

By Bill Catalanello

Was there a better story in baseball the first half of the season than the performance of the Zephyrs' major league affiliate, the Washington Nationals? For half a season manager Frank Robinson's club, at home in D.C. after some dismal summers in Montreal, responded to the challenges of the tough National League East and, after the July 4 weekend, led the division by 4-1/2 games.

At home in RFK Stadium, playing in front of their new fans, the Nats were an amazing 30-11. The ace of Washington's starting staff in the first half was righthander Livan Hernandez, whose 12-2 record and 3.32 ERA helped to land him on the NL All Star team. Joining him as an All Star was closer Chad Cordero, who already had 29 saves through the Nationals' first 81 games. Washington stood at 51-32 overall.

A solid lineup anchored by Jose Guillen, Nick Johnson, Vinny Castilla and Brad Wilkerson scored just enough runs to back the solid pitching. And in RFK, which is pitcher-friendly, the Nationals scored just enough to win. In fact, it was close games in which Washington excelled. In the first half of the season the Nats were 24-7 in games decided by one run.

So dominant were the Nationals in their home park, they were able to outhomer their opposition in RFK Stadium by a margin of 26-18, and outscore their opponents there, 162-116.

The Washington team has had its share of injuries in the season's first half. That has forced the front office to
keep shuttling players back and forth between Washington and Triple-A affiliate New Orleans. It has also kept Robinson scrambling to come up with a winning lineup each day. As this was


Livan Hernandez written, Jose Vidro, Nick Johnson and Ryan Church were all on the disabled list. Robinson's bench, with a little help from New Orleans, has kept the Nationals' run going despite losing those key players.

Pitchers who began the year as Zephyrs, notably Hector Carrasco, Luis Ayala and Sunny Kim, had all been making steady contributions on the mound to the Nationals' divisionleading effort.

Defensively Washington has done the job. Although in the middle of the National League in fielding percentage, the Nats had given up only 19 unearned runs. Only Atlanta had given up fewer (16) in the league. Washington will need to keep up the consistent play in the second half if they are to dethrone the Braves who have been perennial winners of the NL East.

## A New Twist on An Old Favorite

I can imagine the days of old when baseball fans listened to some of the great broadcasters. I can see a young boy with an earplug attached a transistor radio in rural Arkansas listening to Harry Caray or a Jack Buck call a Cardinals game. I can envision a family gathered around the radio in the Bronx listening to a Yankees game with the legendary Mel Allen calling the action with the Mick or the Scooter coming to the plate. Baseball has been blessed with fantastic and talented broadcasters since its beginnings with radio.

I am, of course, of the TV generation. I grew up watching Cubs games with Harry belting out "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" or watching and listening to Mel Allen with "This Week in Baseball." I have experienced listening to some of these broadcasters of old on the TV. Nowadays, I have found a new twist to the radio only games of years past and that is the internet.

The internet provides someone like me, who follows the Zephyrs but lives outside the radio market, a way to listen to Tim and Ron broadcast a game. I especially love the daytime games so I can listen while sitting at my desk at work. If the Zephyrs are not on, I love listening to other baseball broadcasts via the internet while working. It makes the day go by faster and keeps me in tune with what other teams in the PCL are doing this season. It is the same enjoyment fans have had for years without the ear plug and antenna.

Take care,
John Bowlin
nutrianation@hotmail.com

## The New Orleans Zephyrs Day by Day

4/07: NASHVILLE 7 New Orleans 3 4/08: NASHVILLE 14 New Orleans 5
4/09: New Orleans 5 NASHVILLE 4
4/10: NASHVILLE 5 New Orleans 3
4/12: New Orleans 3 MEMPHIS 1
4/13: New Orleans 2 MEMPHIS 1
4/14: MEMPHIS 3 New Orleans 1
4/15: Nashville 5 NEW ORLEANS 3
4/16: NEW ORLEANS 7 Nashville 2
4/17: NEW ORLEANS 6 Nashville 5
4/18: NEW ORLEANS 3 Nashville 0
4/20: Memphis 5 NEW ORLEANS 1
4/21: Memphis 4 NEW ORLEANS 2
NEW ORLEANS 9 Memphis 1
4/22: Memphis 14 NEW ORLEANS 3
4/23: ROUND ROCK 2 New Orleans 1
4/24: New Orleans 7 ROUND ROCK 0
4/25: ROUND ROCK 6 New Orleans 2
4/26: ROUND ROCK 5 New Orleans 4
4/28: NEW ORLEANS 4 Albuquerque 3
4/29: Albuquerque 14 NEW ORLEANS 7
4/30: NEW ORLEANS 2 Albuquerque 1
5/01: Albuquerque 9 NEW ORLEANS 4
5/02: Round Rock 8 NEW ORLEANS 6
5/03: Round Rock 4 NEW ORLEANS 2
5/04: NEW ORLEANS 3 Round Rock 2
5/05: Round Rock 5 NEW ORLEANS 4
5/06: New Orleans 7 ALBUQUERQUE 2
5/07: ALBUQUERQUE 7 New Orleans 3
5/08: New Orleans 5 ALBUQUERQUE 3
5/09: New Orleans 14 ALBUQUERQUE 10
5/10: FRESNO 6 New Orleans 5
5/11: New Orleans 5 FRESNO 0
5/12: FRESNO 6 New Orleans 1
5/13: New Orleans 2 FRESNO 1
5/14: SACRAMENTO 5 New Orleans 4
5/15: New Orleans 12 SACRAMENTO 7
5/16: New Orleans 11 SACRAMENTO 8
5/17: New Orleans 9 SACRAMENTO 8
5/19: Colorado Springs 10 NEW ORLEANS 5
5/20: Colorado Springs 5 NEW ORLEANS 1
5/21: Colorado Springs 6 NEW ORLEANS 1

5/22: NEW ORLEANS 8 Colorado Springs 7
5/23: NEW ORLEANS 7 Salt Lake 6
5/24: Salt Lake 9 NEW ORLEANS 5
5/25: Salt Lake 8 NEW ORLEANS 3
5/26: Salt Lake 7 NEW ORLEANS 1
5/27: NASHVILLE 13 New Orleans 3
5/28: NASHVILLE 13 New Orleans 8
5/29: NASHVILLE 6 New Orleans 3
5/30: NASHVILLE 3 New Orleans 2
6/01: New Orleans 10 ОМАНА 9
6/02: New Orleans 9 OMAHA 2
OMAHA 6 New Orleans 5
6/03: New Orleans 15 OMAHA 9
6/04: NEW ORLEANS 5 Round Rock 2
6/05: Round Rock 8 NEW ORLEANS 7
6/06: NEW ORLEANS 3 Round Rock 2
6/07: Round Rock 5 NEW ORLEANS 2
6/09: NEW ORLEANS 6 Oklahoma 3
6/10: NEW ORLEANS 8 Oklahoma 6
6/11: NEW ORLEANS 6 Oklahoma 1
6/12: Oklahoma 7 NEW ORLEANS 6
6/13: IOWA 8 New Orleans 5
6/14: IOWA 6 New Orleans 5
6/15: New Orleans 7 IOWA 3
6/16: IOWA 6 New Orleans 5
6/17: New Orleans 7 OKLAHOMA 5
6/18: New Orleans 14 OKLAHOMA 13
6/19: New Orleans 7 OKLAHOMA 4
6/20: New Orleans 7 OKLAHOMA 5
6/21: Omaha 3 NEW ORLEANS 2
6/22: Omaha 4 NEW ORLEANS 3
6/23: Omaha 8 NEW ORLEANS 4
6/24: Omaha 10 NEW ORLEANS 4
6/25: NEW ORLEANS 6 Memphis 5
6/26: NEW ORLEANS 5 Memphis 3
6/27: Memphis 7 NEW ORLEANS 5
6/28: Memphis 6 NEW ORLEANS 5
6/30: ROUND ROCK 13 New Orleans 2
7/01: New Orleans 6 ROUND ROCK 4
7/02: New Orleans 5 ROUND ROCK 2 7/03: ROUND ROCK 6 New Orleans 4 7/04: Nashville 2, NEW ORLEANS 1

## The Brief But Brilliant Career of Frank "Noodles" Hahn

Baseball is rife with great nicknames, especially some from the opening years of the 20th century- "Wagon-Tongue" Adams, "Eaglebeak"Beck,"The Connecticut Moistballer"Sherman,"The Gallatin Squash" Perdue, and "The Freshest Man on Earth" Latham - just to name a few.

After noticing one such nameFrank "Noodles" Hahn-I decided to find out more about him.

It turns out that Noodles made his major league debut on April 18, 1899, eleven days shy of his 20th birthday. The young lefthander quickly became the ace of the Cincinnati Reds staff by compiling a 23-8 record in his rookie campaign. The Reds, however, struggled to a sixth place finish.

In 1900, Noodles would gain baseball immortality when he hurled the first no-hitter of the 20th century. He fashioned his 4-0 gem on July 12,1900 against the Phillies. In an unusual display of wildness, he walked five batters that day. For his career, Hahn would allow just 1.69 free passes per nine innings, good for 39th place on the all-time list.

Another record-setting day for Noodles occurred on May 22, 1901, when he fanned 16 Boston Braves in a complete game victory. This single-game team record would remain unmatched until 1963 , when fireballing Jim Maloney equalled it. despite Hahn's heroics and a 22 19 record, the Reds brought up the rear, finishing 38 games out of first place. His 22 wins represented $42 \%$

| Year | Pitcher | Record | Team | Team Wins | \% of Team Wins |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| 1972 | Steve Carlton | $27-10$ | Phillies | 59 | $46 \%$ |
| 1901 | Frank "Noodles" Hahn | $22-19$ | Reds | 52 | $42 \%$ |
| 1918 | Scott Perry | $21-19$ | Athletics | 52 | $40 \%$ |
| 1951 | Ned Garver | $20-12$ | Browns | 52 | $38 \%$ |
| 1923 | Howard Ehmke | $20-17$ | Red Sox | 61 | $33 \%$ |
| 1974 | Nolan Ryan | $22-16$ | Angels | 68 | $32 \%$ |
| 1979 | Phil Niekro | $21-20$ | Braves | 66 | $32 \%$ |
| 1924 | Sloppy Thurston | $20-14$ | White Sox | 66 | $30 \%$ |
| 1997 | Roger Clemens | $21-7$ | Blue Jays | 76 | $28 \%$ |

of his team's victories. Only one other hurler winning 20 games for a last place team would account for a larger percentage of his team's wins. (See chart above.) Hall of Famer Steve Carlton's 27 wins in 1972 accounted for $46 \%$ of the successes for the lowly Phillies.

Hahn was the team ERA leader from 1899-1904 and finished in the top ten for the league in those same years. His 2.55 career ERA ranks 46th best in major league history.
amassed four 20 -win seasons, 122 victories and 3 strikeout crowns. Hahn seemed well on his way to a Hall-of-Fame career.Unfortunately, he also averaged 318 innings pitched per season during the same period.

In 1905, he developed a sore arm, and, after being picked up on waivers in April of 1906 by the New York Hilltoppers (Yankees), Hahn appeared in his final major league game on June 7, 1906. He was just 27 years old.

In his first six seasons, Noodles

## Frank Noodles Hahn Career Stats

| Year | Team | Age Record | IP | ERA | Team Finish |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1899 | Cincinnati | 20 | $23-8$ | 309 | 2.68 | 6th |
| 1900 | Cincinnati | 21 | $16-20$ | 311 | 3.27 | 7th |
| 1901 | Cincinnati | 22 | $22-19$ | 375 | 2.71 | 8th |
| 1902 | Cincinnati | 23 | $23-12$ | 321 | 1.77 | 4th |
| 1903 | Cincinnati | 24 | $22-12$ | 296 | 2.52 | 4th |
| 1904 | Cincinnati | 25 | $16-18$ | 298 | 2.05 | 3rd |
| 1905 | Cincinnati | 26 | $5-3$ | 77 | 2.81 | 5th |
| 1906 | New Yorl (AL) | 27 | $3-2$ | 42 | 3.86 | 2nd |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | Charts by Terry Cullen |

# We've Been Ramblin' Through Ballparks 

"Did you say your name was Ramblin' Rose? Ramble on, baby Settle down easy. Ramble on Rose."

-Robert Hunter

## Dear Bleacher Creature,

 Well, I'm certainly settled down, but I have been rambling. Around the summer solstice, our travels took us to the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, to New Orleans, and to Oklahoma City, to shopping malls and major and minor league ballparks. Louis, Betsy and I covered the miles together, and we're still on speaking terms.Our first stop was a visit to the Texas Rangers' home, Ameriquest Field in Arlington. Situated amidst a wonderland of activities for adults and kids alike, the ballpark has been one of my favorites since the first time I saw it in 1994. Now over a decade old, it still sparkles like new. The Rangers organization has put together an exciting young ballclub that figures to battle the Angels all season for supremacy in the American League West. We saw a Sunday afternoon game Memorial Day weekend at which the Rangers won their eighth game in a row, slugging their way past the Chicago White Sox, 12-4. Texas' young sluggers like Mark Teixeira, Alfonso Soriano, Kevin Mench and Laynce Nix were on display on this day, and they looked impressive.

I took Betsy for a walk into the center field area in the middle innings to see and be seen. Center field in Arlington resembles the corner of a public park with meandering kids of all ages: toddlers with parents, little boys with their gloves on even though the game
seemed miles away, and shy little girls like Betsy. We looked into the gift shop windows and smelled the grilled onions, the polish sausage and the barbecue brisket. We had a wonderful time.

We visited Zephyr Field in Metairie for one of their Friday night fireworks spectaculars. The Zephyrs won a wild game over Oklahoma, 8-6, with 7,900 in attendance, including lots of kids. Betsy had the time of her life walking the concourses hand in hand with Louis (or me). She even got big hug from Clotile. The Zephyrs' fireworks shows are among the best we've seen, and we've seen plenty. The music is rockin', and it's well coordinated with the pyrotechnics. The fireworks finale coupled with the Zephyrs' victory made for a wonderful evening. The Zephyrs were fun to watch. Tyrell Godwin had a big game on the night we visited. He had a single, a double and a triple and drove in three runs.

For the following weekend we flew up to Oklahoma City, and we were able to see the same two teams playing at the SBC Bricktown Ballpark. This time it was a Saturday night, and the beautiful park was packed. The crowd was announced at 13,001 . The game was another barnburner, and once again the Zephyrs came out on top by a football score, 14-13. Brendan Harris drove in five runs for the Zs. New Orleans had a 9-1 lead, only to give it up when the Redhawks scored 9 runs in the 6th inning to take the lead, 11-9. While Betsy dozed on Louis' lap, the Zephyrs came storming back with five runs in the 8th to win. We were exhausted. The


The fireworks finale coupled with the Zephyrs' victory made for a wonderful evening...

9-inning game took 4 hours; it was an endurance test for the players and fans alike. Less thanhalf of the packed house that saw the game's first pitch stuck around till the bitter end. We were among them.

The next day was Father's Day, and we flew back down to Houston. The three separate trips, two by car and one by air, all within three weeks, had my head in a whirl. My dear husband Louis was able to mix in a little business in each city, so it wasn't all fun and games for him.

On the flight home, memories of my Dad came flooding back to me. He's the one who taught me to love the game. He took me to my first big league games and taught me how to watch and what to watch for. My love of baseball is all mixed up with memories of my late father.

We'll be home in Houston for a while now. I guess I was able to get that rambling out of my system for the time being. Good luck to you and the Zephyrs the rest of the summer. I'll keep you up to date from here.

Rose

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