



OUR FINAL EDITION—MANY THANKS TO OUR READERS



BLEACHER CREATURE

A Monthly Conversation Among Baseball Fans

Issue # 144

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER, 2006

New York Mets, Zephyrs Form a Partnership



The New Orleans Zephyrs and the New York Mets recently signed a 2-year player development agreement. Below is the announcement as it was made to Mets fans on their website.

FLUSHING, NY -- The New York Mets announced a two-year partnership with the New Orleans Zephyrs to become the Mets' new Triple A farm team. The Pacific Coast League team, most recently an affiliate of the Washington Nationals, will continue to play its games at Zephyr Field.

"We are excited to relocate our top minor league operation to New Orleans to become part of the rebirth and renaissance of one of America's great cities" said Jeff Wilpon, Sr. EVP & COO, New York Mets. "We expect to take an active role in the community -- on and off the field. We thank the fans of the Virginia Beach area for their support for the past 38 years and salute Don Beaver and Ron Maestri for their interest in partnering with the Mets for the next chapter of our player development efforts and the City's redevelopment efforts."

"The New Orleans Zephyrs' ownership and front office clearly showed an aggressive desire to be part of the Mets organization and bring our Triple A affiliate to the Crescent City," said Omar Minaya, General Manager, New York Mets. "We are thrilled to partner with the Zephyrs organization which shares our same commitment to producing results on the field and making a difference in the community."

"The new home of our Triple-A farm club is a direct result of a proactive reachout by the Zephyrs, led by their General Manager Mike Schline," said Adam Wogan, Director, Minor League Operations, New York Mets. "The Zephyrs' interest provided an attractive opportunity that makes sense for us to go forward."

-From newyorkmets.com



Beginning in 2007, the Zs dugout will be populated by players in the New York Mets' system.

The New Orleans Zephyrs signed a two-year player development contract with the New York Mets last month, ending the Zephyrs affiliation with the Washington Nationals.

"We could not be happier to join forces with the Mets, it was our top choice," said Mike Schline, Zephyrs General Manager. "The Mets are a World Series contender and have a terrific reputation in the baseball."

Per the working agreement, the Mets will provide the players and coaching personnel for the Zephyrs. The 2007 coaching staff will be announced later this fall. The Mets minor league system has finished with a winning record in three of the past four seasons and has been among the top half of all Major League organizations in that span.

The new affiliation for the Zephyrs will be the fourth affiliate in the franchise history. The club was affiliated with the Milwaukee Brewers from 1993-1996 (279-293), the Houston Astros from 1997-2004 (567-572) and the Nationals in 2005-2006 (136-147).

Having the Zephyrs affiliated with another National League team means that Zephyrs fans will continue to see some games without the designated hitter. There's no DH anytime the Zs play against another National League farm club.

We Thank You, One and All...

Since this publication began back in 1993, it has received help from a collection of unique individuals. Each had something to offer, and we wanted to use a little space to say thanks to some of those who helped keep the *Bleacher Creature* going over the years. You'll see the acronym SABR frequently in the list below. The letters stand for Society for American Baseball Research.

(Listed alphabetically)

John Bowlin—Our Alabama connection, John loves the game and he loves the Zephyrs. He has been a regular contributor in recent years.

Pam Catalanello—Encouraging and helping us through nearly 14 years of publishing, Pam has also contributed some fine photography over the years.

Jay Cicero—The Zephyrs general manager in 1993-94, Jay helped expose the early *Bleacher Creature* to the fans of the Zephyrs.

Lee Collin—A SABR researcher, Lee has a knack for finding baseball's unusual accomplishments. We've published his fine work for several years.

Richard Cuicchi—A local researcher and a SABR member, Richard contributed some of his excellent work in the publication's early years.

Terry Cullen—A contributor for the past several years, Terry is a local historian, writer, SABR researcher and storyteller.

David Diket—David is the proprietor of Speedy Printing, and his support has made possible the very survival of our publication. David has been a booster from very early on.

Alyson Footer—A longtime member of the Houston Astros front office, Alyson helped a great deal in exposing the *Bleacher Creature* to the Houston fans.

Jay Gauthreaux—A New Orleans-area SABR historian transplanted to Memphis, Jay has been a contributor since the *Bleacher Creature's* very first season.

Bill Gilbert—A prolific SABR researcher from Texas, Bill has been an occasional contributor to the *Bleacher Creature* for several years.

S. Derby Gisclair—The local author of *Baseball in New Orleans* and a great SABR researcher, Derby has been a contributor in recent years. Derby has also helped to spread the *Bleacher Creature's* reach through his superb website, NewOrleansBaseball.com.

Joseph Halm—A local baseball fan and writer, Joe contributed articles in the '90's.

Jack Hebert—Jack is a local SABR researcher, whose fine work we have been proud to publish for several years.

Hector Maldonado—A local editor and publisher, Hector has sent us some outstanding interviews with folks around the Zephyrs, including one recently with Zephyrs Executive Director and COO, Ron Maestri.

Joe Liss—A Metairie resident and SABR member, Joe was an early contributor.

Jay Miller—Zephyrs general manager from 1996-1998, Jay helped a great deal in exposing the *Bleacher Creature* to a larger audience. Jay is currently enjoying tremendous success as vice president and GM of the Round Rock Express.

Pasadena Rose—A native Texan, Rose is a wife, mother, homemaker, poker player, philosopher, singer in the choir, softball player, traveler, and baseball fanatic. She has been a regular columnist for several years, and she and her husband Louis have helped spread the word of our publication in the Houston area.

Chris Sinatra—Long ago a staffer with the Zephyrs, Chris was an early contributor.

Arthur O. Schott—Arthur is the dean of local baseball researchers, and he has contributed much to this publication in many ways, not the least of which is his own fine research pieces. Louisiana's official baseball historian, Arthur is an inspiration to all of us who study the game's rich history.

Ken Trahan—The radio voice of the Zephyrs for many years, Ken, in addition to his play-by-play expertise, was not only a contributor, but he helped bring our publication to a wider audience of baseball fans.

Eugene Witek—The photographer who has helped the *Bleacher Creature* develop its unmistakable "look" over the years, Gene has contributed since the early years at UNO. It is difficult to imagine our publication without Gene's excellent photos. Look for his words and photos in the tabloid *South Louisiana Sports Scene*.

BLEACHER CREATURE

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Bleacher Creature is a monthly conversation among baseball fans. It has been published since 1993. It is independent of the New Orleans Zephyrs ballclub and is made possible by our wonderfully loyal subscribers, supporters, contributors and friends.

“Dynamite” Dunn Exploded for Five HRs in an Evangeline League Game

Editor’s Note:

The following story and boxscore first appeared in a publication called the *West Bank Herald* on April 2, 1959. The story of Cecil Dunn and his 5-home run game is noteworthy because it was the first appearance of Arthur Schott’s trademark heading, *A Schott from the Bleachers*. With Hap Glaudi’s sports column *Looking ‘Em Over* in the same paper, the *West Bank Herald* could boast of two of the city’s outstanding sports columnists.

Cecil Dunn, who answered to the nickname “Dynamite,” exploded indeed in an Evangeline League game on April 29, 1936.

Playing first base for Alexandria that day, Dunn nicked Lake Charles pitching for five home runs and a single in seven times at bat. This output resulted in 12 runs batted in and an accumulation of 21 total bases in a single contest.

Hitting five home runs in one game has never been accomplished in the major leagues. It has been matched perhaps only a half dozen times in all minor league history. It certainly stands as the greatest batting performance ever witnessed by Louisiana baseball fans.

Dunn toured the minor circuits for several seasons, but he never played in the majors. His 1936 homer output of 47 was good enough to lead the Evangeline League.

Alexandria 28, Lake Charles 5 – April 29, 1936

ALEXANDRIA							LAKE CHARLES						
	AB	R	H	PO	A	E		AB	R	H	PO	A	E
Huff 2b	5	4	3	2	2	0	Rodgers ss	5	1	0	2	4	1
Mettler cf	7	2	2	4	0	0	Morris lf	4	2	2	1	0	0
Flippen 3b	6	5	4	2	3	1	Hackney 3b	3	1	1	3	2	0
Dunn 1b	7	5	6	10	1	0	Bounds 1b	4	0	0	11	1	0
Fleming rf	7	1	1	1	0	0	Goss rf	4	0	0	2	0	0
Pavlovic lf	5	2	4	4	0	0	Capelle 2b	3	0	0	3	5	0
Perry ss	5	2	1	1	3	0	Yunker cf	3	0	1	1	0	0
Parsons c	3	3	1	1	1	0	Carter c	2	0	0	1	0	0
Williams c	2	1	1	2	0	0	Criss c	2	1	0	3	0	0
Lee p	6	3	4	0	2	0	Wittman p	0	0	0	0	0	0
							Millard p	0	0	0	0	0	0
							Tate p	4	0	2	0	0	0
Totals	53	28	27	27	12	1	Totals	34	5	6	27	12	1

Score by innings:
 Alexandria 347 121 613—28
 Lake Charles 001 000 400—5
 Summary: Runs-batted-in—Dunn 12, Pavlovic 2, Parsons, Flippen 6, Hackney, Lee, Mettler, Perry 2, Huff, Tate, Morris 2. Two-base hits—Huff 2, Hackney. Three-base hit—Pavlovic. Home runs—Dunn 5, Parsons, Lee, Perry, Flippen, Morris, Pavlovic. Stolen base—Mettler. Bases on balls—Off Lee 2, Millard 4, Tate. Struck out by—Lee 4, Tate 2. Hits off—Wittman 8 in 2; Millard 3 in 1/2. Hit by pitcher—By Lee (Yunker). Losing pitcher—Wittman. Umpires—Edwards and Tate. Time of game—2:00.

FOUR HOME RUNS IN A GAME - MAJOR LEAGUES

National League		American League
Bobby Lowe ... 1894	Willie Mays 1961	Lou Gehrig..... 1932
Ed Delahanty.. 1896	Mike Schmidt.. 1976	Pat Seerey..... 1948
Chuck Klein 1936	Bob Horner 1986	Rocky Colavito 1959
Gil Hodges..... 1950	Mark Whiten ... 1993	Mike Cameron 2002
Joe Adcock 1954	Shawn Green.. 2002	Carlos Delgado 2003

Source: *The Sporting News Baseball Record Book*

Evangeline League Hurler Bill Thomas Was Another 35-Game Winner in 1946

Our friend and a former pro pitcher **Al Briede** checked in after **Jay Gauthreaux**’s recent article about **Glenn Liebhardt**, the pitcher who won 35 games in the Southern Association in the 1906 season. Briede recalls Evangeline League star **Bill Thomas**, who was 35-7 for league champion Houma in 1946.

Briede: “Bill Thomas, it is said, is the all-time win leader in the minors with 383 wins.”

Incidentally, Al Briede also had a phenomenal year in 1946 in the Evangeline League, with a record of 16-5 for the Natchez Giants.

—Bill Catalanello

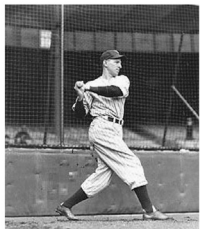
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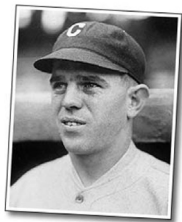
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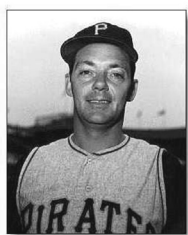
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Tom Henrich



Joe Sewell



Roy Face

The most notable players to spring from the Cotton States League were Bill Dickey (1927 Jackson Red Sox) and Billy Herman (1928 Vicksburg Hill Billies).

Cotton States League

Class D: 1902 – 1908, 1910 – 1913, 1922 – 1932
Class C: 1936 – 1941, 1947 – 1955

Louisiana	Alabama	Arkansas	Florida	Mississippi	Texas
Alexandria Baton Rouge DeQuincy Lake Charles Monroe New Orleans Opelousas	Mobile Selma	El Dorado Helena Hot Springs Pine Bluff	Pensacola	Brookhaven Clarksdale Cleveland Columbus Greenville Greenwood Gulfport Gulfport-Biloxi Hattiesburg Jackson Laurel Meridian Natchez Vicksburg Yazoo City	Marshall Port Arthur Texarkana

Professional Baseball in Louisiana

by S. Derby Gisclair

Member, Society for American Baseball Research

New Orleans is not the only city in Louisiana to sponsor professional baseball. In fact, twenty cities throughout the state have hosted professional teams over the years. They played in a total of fourteen different leagues covering the spectrum from independent leagues to Class AAA.

In 1895, Shreveport became the state's second city to promote professional baseball when the Shreveport Grays took the field in the Texas-Southern League. Although they finished in fourth place and disbanded in early August before the season finished, Shreveport would become a major hub of professional baseball and remains so today with the Shreveport Sports of the Class AA American Association.

Baton Rouge became the state's third city to have a professional baseball franchise when the Baton Rouge Cajuns in the Cotton States League finished the 1903 season 53 – 54 (.495) in second place, just 2-1/2 games behind the Natchez Indians.

From the six teams that made up the Louisiana State League which operated for a single season in 1920, to the Dixie League which operated between 1933 and 1935, to the better known Cotton States League, the Evangeline League, and the Southern League (later reformed as the Southern Association), cities across Louisiana fielded teams and captured their share of league championships.

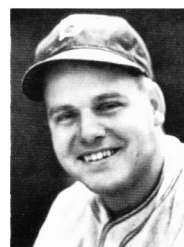
What follows is a closer look at the three professional baseball leagues most associated with Louisiana and Louisiana-based teams: the Cotton States League, the Evangeline League, and the Southern League/Southern Association.

The Cotton States League

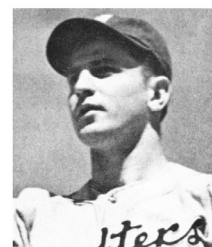
The Cotton States League appeared shortly after the turn of the 20th century and for thirty-seven seasons off and on between 1902 and 1955 entertained fans across six states. Baton Rouge captured the league pennant in 1903 and again in 1932, while Alexandria reigned as champion in 1929. However, the most successful Louisiana team hailed from Monroe, winning five Cotton States titles during twenty-one seasons, including three in a row (1939 – 1941). New Orleans sponsored a team during the 1912 season – the New Orleans Little Pels – but they moved to Yazoo City, Mississippi, on May 9th and eventually folded on August 3rd.



Paul Bruno



Sid Gauthreaux



Pete Thomassie

The Evangeline League

The wildly popular Evangeline League emerged during the Great Depression and lasted for twenty-one seasons, interrupted only by World War II. Thirteen Louisiana cities were represented and four teams – Alexandria, Lafayette, New Iberia, and Houma – captured three league titles each. Lafayette fielded the most successful club, finishing in the top half in eleven out of seventeen seasons and winning three pennants.

The Evangeline League produced many exceptional baseball players, including Paul Bruno, Sid Gauthreaux, Cecil Dunn, Conk Meriwether, and Roy Sanner.

Evangeline League

Class D: 1934 – 1942, 1946 – 1948
Class C: 1949 – 1957

Louisiana	Mississippi	Texas
Abbeville Alexandria Baton Rouge Crowley Hammond Jeanerette Lafayette Lake Charles Monroe New Iberia Opelousas Rayne Thibodaux	Natchez	Port Arthur Texas City

Southern League/Southern Association

The Southern League featured the first professional baseball team in the state of Louisiana – the New Orleans Pelicans – who captured league honors in their first season in 1887, then again in 1889 and 1896. New Orleans was among the three cities that formed the Southern Association from the ashes of the Southern League in 1901. Over fifty-nine seasons, New Orleans would finish in first place nine times and would finish in the top half of the league more than seventy-one percent of the time.



Abner Powell

The franchise would produce four future Hall of Famers – Joe Sewell, Dazzy Vance, Bob Lemon and Earl Weaver – along with dozens of other major leaguers like Shoeless Joe Jackson, Tom Henrich, Zeke Bonura and Roy Face.

Southern League/Southern Association

1885 – 1888, 1892 – 1896, 1901
 Class A: 1902 – 1935
 Class A1: 1936 – 1945
 Class AA: 1946 – 1961

Louisiana	Alabama	Arkansas	Georgia	Tennessee	Others
New Orleans Shreveport	Birmingham Mobile Montgomery Selma	Little Rock	Atlanta Augusta Columbus Macon Savannah	Chattanooga Knoxville Memphis Nashville	Charleston (SC) Evansville (IN) Pensacola (FL)

New Orleans native Larry Gilbert became the club's player-manager in 1923 and would lead his club to their ninth Southern League/Southern Association pennant. Gilbert would manage for twenty-five years in the Southern Association, compiling a record of 2,128 – 1,628 (.567) to become the most successful manager in the league's history.

The New Orleans Pelicans would also produce Abner Powell – the father of New Orleans baseball and one of the game's true pioneers. Powell became the team's first captain in 1887 and would go on to become the team's manager and eventually owned the club until 1903.

He introduced the practice of covering the infield with a waterproof tarpaulin when it rained, popularized Ladies' Day as a regular feature on the schedule, established The Knothole Gang for neighborhood kids to get into ballgames free, and began issuing detachable Rain Checks – all in 1887!

Louisiana has a rich history of professional baseball that spans nearly 120 years, from the 1887 New Orleans Pelicans to the present day New Orleans Zephyrs of the Class AAA Pacific Coast League and the Shreveport Sports of the Class AA American Association.

Professional Baseball in Louisiana

City	League	Year(s)
Abbeville	Louisiana State	1920
	Evangeline	1935 – 1939, 1946 – 1950, 1952
Alexandria	Gulf Coast	1907 – 1908
	Arkansas State	1909
	Louisiana State	1920
	Cotton States	1925 – 1930
	Evangeline	1934 – 1942, 1946 – 1957
	Texas	1972 – 1975
Baton Rouge	Texas-Louisiana	1994 -
	Cotton States	1902 – 1906, 1929 – 1932
	Dixie	1933
	East Dixie	1934
	Evangeline	1946 – 1957
Crowley	Gulf States	1976
	Gulf Coast	1908, 1950
DeQuincy	Evangeline	1951 – 1957
	Cotton States	1932
Hammond	Evangeline	1946 – 1951
Houma	Evangeline	1940, 1946 – 1952
Jeanerette	Evangeline	1934 – 1939
Lafayette	Gulf Coast	1907
	Louisiana State	1920
	Evangeline	1934 – 1942, 1948 – 1957
	Texas	1975 – 1976
Lake Charles	South Texas	1906
	Gulf Coast	1907 – 1908, 1950 – 1953
	Cotton States	1929 – 1930
	Evangeline	1934 – 1942, 1954 – 1957
Leesville	Gulf Coast	1950
Monroe	Cotton States	1903 – 1904, 1908, 1924 – 1932, 1937 – 1941, 1950 – 1955
	Arkansas State	1909
	Gulf Coast	1907
	Evangeline	1956
	Morgan City	Gulf Coast
New Iberia	Louisiana State	1920
	Evangeline	1934 – 1942, 1946 – 1956
New Orleans	Southern	1887 – 1888, 1892 – 1896
	Texas	1888
	Southern Association	1901 – 1959
	Cotton States	1912
	American Association	1977
	Pacific Coast	1993 -
Oakdale	Louisiana State	1920
Opelousas	Gulf Coast	1907
	Cotton States	1932
	Evangeline	1934 – 1941
	Louisiana State	1920
Rayne	Evangeline	1934 – 1941
	Texas-Southern	1895
Shreveport	Southern Association	1901 – 1907, 1959 – 1961
	Texas	1908 – 1910, 1915 – 1932, 1938 – 1942, 1946 – 1957, 1968 – 2002
	Dixie	1933
	East Dixie	1934
	West Dixie	1935
	American Association	2003 -
	Thibodaux	Evangeline

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Zephyrs GM Schline Named PCL Executive of the Year

The Pacific Coast League named New Orleans Zephyrs General Manager Mike Schline the league's Executive of the Year last month.

Schline, in his second year as General Manager of the Zephyrs, was recognized after the Zephyrs became the first professional team to begin its season in New Orleans since Hurricane Katrina when they took the field on April 6, 2006. The team also raised its attendance for the second straight season, finishing with a total attendance of 361,493.

"No previous PCL Executive of the Year has ever faced a landscape of such operational challenges as Mike Schline did prior to the 2006 season," said PCL President Branch Rickey. "The success of the Zephyrs this season is testimony to how successfully Mike helped to lead his staff."

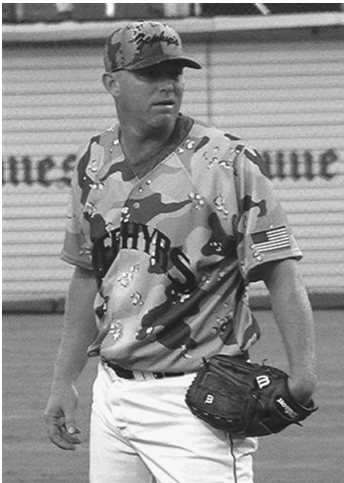
"I feel very honored to receive this award," said Schline. "Having an owner like Don Beaver and being able to work every day with (Executive Director & COO) Ron Maestri has taught me a lot about loyalty."

"Everything the Zephyrs accomplished in 2006," Schline continued, "would not have been possible without our great staff. I would put our staff up against any in baseball. Nobody has worked harder and accomplished more with all the odds stacked against them."

Schline will be presented with the award at the Baseball Winter Meetings in Orlando in December.

—from zephyrsbaseball.com

The Almost Endless Variety of Zephyrs Uniforms



Photos
by
Eugene Witek



The following story is true. No names have been changed since no one is innocent.

Sometime in the 1970's, two brothers, Dudley and Michael, were involved in a typical sibling squabble. The discussion, they decided, would be settled by playing a softball game, and the victorious team would garner bragging rights, neighborhood prestige, and, more importantly, a keg of beer.

When the appointed day arrived, it was a perfect spring afternoon, but what actually ensued was far from ideal. The Micheals, who were gung-ho for victory, scored often and early, while the Dudleys (including yours truly) were consistently inept in all phases of the game. This was in large part due to the Dudleys' pre-game warm-up, which was conducted at a local watering hole. Consumption continued throughout the contest, as the prized keg, which was hidden in a nearby yard, had been tapped by one of the more enterprising Dudleys.

Everything was rolling along when Tall Bald Paul, the father of Dudley and Michael, inserted himself into the ongoings as umpire. He strode purposefully to the mound, and after placing himself behind the pitcher, commenced to calling the balls and strikes. Fortified by his own can of brewsky in his right hand, and despite his obvious inebriation, he was relatively invisible for a couple of innings. Besides, the Dudleys were providing enough comic relief for everyone. No one was paying much attention to Tall Bald Paul until...

There was no one out and a runner, Jorge, on second base. Michael was at bat with a full count, and Dudley was on the mound. I myself had been flailing around as the second baseman all afternoon. But, when Jorge's lead off second base stretched beyond twenty feet, I, in a brief moment of alertness, gave our pitcher, Dudley the verbal pickoff sign, and he acknowledged it. Dudley wheeled around screaming, "Look out!" to his father, (who most assuredly would have been conked in the head if he hadn't ducked) and fired the ball to me, standing all alone at the second sack. Jorge, chuckling to himself, began to walk off the field since there is no stealing in softball and he was so obviously out.

That in itself was not so terribly unusual. But it's what happened in the next few seconds that was so extraordinarily rare.

Tall Bald Paul, the eminent arbiter, having avoided injury,



rose back to his full height, and without spilling a drop, made a majestic swooping movement with his right hand while bellowing out, "Stee-rike Three! Yer Outta there!"

Jorge stopped in his tracks; Michael stood momentarily stunned in the batter's box and all noise ceased. In a test of sobriety, I checked my glove to make sure there was indeed a ball in there. I then showed it to the unaware ump. A perplexed look flashed quickly across his face. He looked at Dudley, his own beer, then Michael, his own beer again, before his now pugnacious glare fell on me. Then, in his best Bill Klem impersonation, he hollered out, "I call 'em like I see 'em. Stee-rike Three!" he yelled at Mike, "Yer Outta there!"

Well, I needn't tell you that pandemonium reigned for the next 10 minutes or so until cooler, but not necessarily saner heads prevailed. Curiously, it was ultimately decided that *both men were out*. Jorge rightfully so, and the unfortunate Michael who was at bat, given the circumstances, who knows for sure? Definitely not me, since I had a difficult enough time gathering myself up from the infield dirt where I had landed in a heavy paroxysm of laughter, the likes of which I'd never known. As a result, my ribs were sore for several days; my tear ducts were liquid-free for a week.

The rest of the game was anticlimactic. We went out 1-2-3 in our half of the inning. On the first pitch, the lead-off batter for the Michaels stroked an ominous double. Paul studied the situation thoughtfully, and, not to be *deja-vued*, sauntered off in the general direction of home (his house), where I'm most certain more mischief awaited him.

The fracas ended shortly thereafter. The dudleys were non-plussed and stoic in defeat. The Michaels were boastful and loud. However, their glee was short-lived, because the now half-filled keg had been dragged out of hiding. The Michaels couldn't help but notice that the stout imbibers of the Dudleys were still upright and still thirsty.

Mort and Walker Cooper Formed a Battery of Brothers in 3 World Series

Twenty-four sets of brothers have appeared in World Series play since the Fall Classic began in 1903. Of these, Mort and Walker Cooper were the only brothers to form a pitcher-catcher combination. The Cooper-and-Cooper battery performed in three successive World Series (1942-43-44) as members of the St. Louis Cardinals.

1942

On September 30, 1942, the first battery of brothers took the field at Sportsman's Park for St. Louis against the New York Yankees before a crowd of 34,769. Mort Cooper, a 22-game winner during the regular season, faced off against the Yankees starter Red Ruffing, who won 14 in the regular year.

The Yankees pushed across single runs in the 4th and 5th innings, to take a 2-0 lead for Ruffing, who pitched no-hit ball against the Cards until the 8th inning. In the 9th, however, the Cardinals rallied against Ruffing with two out, scoring 4 runs. In fact, St. Louis had the bases loaded and the winning run at the plate in Stan Musial, but the Hall-of-Famer made his second out of the inning, bouncing out to the first baseman. The Yankees prevailed, 7-4, and Mort Cooper was tagged with the loss. Catcher Walker Cooper went 1-for-4 in the Series opener.

St. Louis won Game 2 behind rookie righthander Johnny Beazley by a score of 4-3. Walker Cooper gave Beazley an early lead with a two-out, two-run double in the 1st inning. The Series moved to Yankee Stadium, where the Cardinals won game 3 behind Ernie White's 6-hit shutout, 2-0. Some spectacular plays by Cardinals outfielders Stan Musial, Terry Moore and Enos Slaughter helped preserve White's whitewash.

St. Louis manager Billy Southworth selected his ace, Mort Cooper, to start Game 4 against the Bronx Bombers. Hank Borowy, a 15-game winner for the Yankees, was his opponent. Cooper was staked to an early 6-1 lead, but he couldn't hold it, as the Yankees rallied for five runs in the 6th inning, including a 3-run homer by Charlie Keller, which knocked out Mort. He wound up with a no-decision, but the Cardinals won the game, 9-6, rallying with two runs in the 7th and one more in the 9th.

The Cardinals wrapped up the World Series championship at Yankee Stadium the following day. With the score tied at 2-2 going into the 9th inning, Walker Cooper led off the inning with a single to right-center and scored when rookie third baseman Whitey Kurowski's line drive stayed just inside the left field foul pole for a dramatic two-run homer. The Yankees tried to answer in the bottom half, but

with the tying runs on base and no outs, Walker Cooper picked Yankees baserunner Joe Gordon off second base with a perfect throw to shortstop Marty Marion wiping out the lead runner for the first out of the inning. Beazley retired the next two yankee batters to give the Cardinals the 1942 championship, breaking New York's World Series winning streak at 8.

1943

The Yankees and Cardinals met again in the World Series of 1943. As they did the year before, the Yanks won the opener, this time by a score of 4-2. With the Cooper brothers selected to be the battery in Game 2, they received word that their father had died earlier that day. After a clubhouse meeting the Walker brothers said they'd decided to play the game. Mort pitched a complete game victory, 4-3, aided by home runs by Marty Marion and Ray Sanders. Walker caught a foul pop off the bat of Gordon to end the game. It turned out to be St. Louis' only win in the 5-game Series.

Mort Cooper was the tough-luck loser in Game 5, as New York's Spud Chandler scattered 10 hits in tossing a shutout. The Cards left 11 runners on base in the game, and they had the tying runs on base when the game ended. Yankees catcher Bill Dickey provided the game's runs with a 2-run homer in the 6th.

1944

Mort and Walker Cooper played in one more World Series together, in 1944, when the Cardinals squared off against their hometown St. Louis Browns. Twice Mort was matched up against the Browns' righthander Denny Galehouse. In the opener, Galehouse came out on top, 2-1, despite Mort Cooper's 2-hit pitching over 7 innings. In the rematch in Game 5, with brother Walker catching him, Mort Cooper scattered seven Browns hits. He benefitted from solo homers by Sanders and Danny Litwhiler to win, 2-0. Cooper struck out 12 Browns, including three pinch hitters in the 9th, in going the distance. Galehouse also had the strikeout ball working, fanning 10. Despite 22 K's, the game was played in a rapid time of two hours and four minutes. All games of the 1944 World Series were played in Sportsman's Park, as it was the home field for both St. Louis clubs. It was the last appearance in the Fall Classic by brothers as a pitcher-catcher combination.

The Cardinals wrapped up the wartime World Series championship the following day, with a 3-1 victory. The Cardinals pitchers held the Browns to just six runs in the six games.



Peeling Off the Uni

"Nobody is going to retire gracefully anymore. To get them to retire nowadays, you have to pour gasoline on them and set fire to the uniform and peel it off." –Bob Feller in 1987

The Bleacher Creature has been one of the great experiences of my life. I have so enjoyed having a small part of this newsletter since April 2005. I hope you have enjoyed reading these columns and much as I have enjoyed writing them. I want to take a moment to thank Bill for the opportunity to write a column in such a fine forum as the Creature. It has meant a lot to share about baseball and family. I hope something I wrote made you laugh or made you think about life and baseball. I will always admire the people of Louisiana and Mississippi for their grit and determination during the last year.

As for me, I will continue to pull for the Zephyrs and collect Zephyrs and Pelicans stuff. I look forward to meeting the crew from the Creature one day at the Shrine and enjoying some baseball. I will continue to try to get the Cleveland Indians into the World Series and win it. There has been some talk with the Triple Play Club here in Birmingham of restarting a newsletter for the club or maybe some online articles off the tripleplaybirmingham.com website.

In closing, we were in St. Tammany parish the middle of September. We got to see some of tree damage and hear stories from our friends about strength and survival. As we headed home, we dropped by Northshore Mall. I walked into Sports Avenue and was looking around for a special Louisiana item to carry home. (where was the Zs stuff, people?) I saw a t-shirt that sums up my feelings for New Orleans. It read: "New Orleans is in me."

Take care,

John Bowlin

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The Amen Corner PASADENA ROSE

"I went to the crossroads; I looked east and west..."
–Robert Johnson

Dear Bleacher Creature,

Just make it short and sweet about my favorite team. The Astros, for the third straight year, closed with a rush, and this year they had the Cardinals on the ropes until the final weekend of the season. When that final weekend came, though, Houston just couldn't get enough runs to come away with the division title. It was there for the taking. That's history. I'm over it.

I feel I'm at a crossroads (again) in my life. Baseball 's almost done. My Betsy has started school. Even the *Bleacher Creature* is coming to an end. I'll miss it.

The first time you printed one of my letters was 1999. Much has happened in that 7-year span, a lot good and some bad. I've given you many (but not all) the highlights. The self expression for me has been therapeutic. I hope I've reached some of you. My message is that baseball is a lot like our lives. It's an every-day proposition, and you can't be great every day. On your best days, though, you can produce a lot if you keep hustling. You can even hit home runs. I have.

Speaking of production, I just found out that I am once again an expectant mother, and just past birthday number 40. This child will be born in the spring. Betsy is beside herself with the notion that she'll soon be a "big sister." It's a very exciting time for my little family; Louis is absolutely walking on air.

Motherhood has changed me in many ways, most for the better; I'm looking forward to going through the whole process again. (Am I crazy?) Pregnancy is another one of those every-day challenges. Put me in the lineup.

I wish you, the Zephyrs and New Orleans all the best, and we'll plan to see you at the ballpark next season. Bye for now,

Rose

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